

Chapter ONE

The other day, a female acquaintance of mine was explaining the open wound on her hand, not a pretty sight, created by dry skin as a result of cleaning her bathrooms. Her story began; "I went home last night and thought I could clean my two bathrooms in 45 to 50 minutes if I worked fast and didn't get interrupted..... ."

The story continued, but my mind went inward. I was in shock! If it takes her almost an hour to clean her bathrooms, how long does it take her to clean her whole house? I shook my head and returned to listening to the tale. I caught up with it somewhere near the end. This lapse could have been embarrassing if she had realized I had been paying very little attention after the shock of her opening statement.

If you find her estimate realistic, you are definitely wise in buying this book. What takes her and you so long? Do you get out the cotton swabs and clean between the tiles on the walls? You and I both know that when you pay enormous sums for an executive detailing of your car, they do exactly that: get out the cotton swabs and clean every little nook and cranny with exacting patience, extracting even the tiniest grain of dirt. And why not! You are paying for that exact intense kind of a job. But, think about this! Bathrooms are the two smallest rooms in your home and nobody is paying you even a paltry sum to clean them. I have two bathrooms with a combined total of 95 square feet. *I know this is an English measurement and it is a dead give away as to my age, but what can I say, I just don't relate to metric.* I have

been in a lot of main bathrooms and many ensuite bathrooms, (*watch where your mind is going,*) over the years and I would say that my bathrooms are an average size. Considering that my place is 1154 square feet, if it took me an hour to clean my bathrooms, it would take me another 11 hours to finish cleaning the house. *Not on your life! As they say, life is too short.* Even before I developed my cleaning system, I never spent that amount of time cleaning.

The story, of course, is not important to the text of the book. The story was important to me as it germinated the idea to write this book. But, only partially! The other incentive had to do with my friend Kathy.

I have spent several hours on the phone, on more than one occasion, talking to my friend Kathy. Kathy was out of work and didn't have a job, a situation I had found myself in not more than a year previously. Without a job! A scary situation when you have to provide for your own livelihood. I was reminding Kathy that I had resorted to cleaning apartments in my condominium building when I was out of work. She thought this option was too embarrassing and degrading. Granted, cleaning homes for a living is not a psychologically comforting thought when you're used to executive positions! Our pride gets in the way, but it's my opinion, pride becomes a luxury you can't afford, when it comes to having a roof over your head and food on the table.

In any case, I did convince my friend Kathy to start this new adventure. I spent hours on the phone trying to explain my cleaning system. Now, my friend Kathy is not a genius nor is she lacking in intelligence; yet there were a lot of silences on the

other end of the line. Do you suppose she hadn't a clue about what I was explaining? That was the case! I soon realized it was impossible to understand a verbal explanation of my Rotating Cleaning System, which I will refer to as **RCS** throughout the remainder of the book. It was apparent that I would have to document my system in black and white. Hence, Kathy is the second reason that convinced me to write this book.

I'm not yet finished with my friend Kathy's involvement with the book. She is also responsible for the third and deciding factor that brings this book to a reality.

Some people absolutely hate cleaning and I mean HATE. My friend Kathy is one of those people. Kathy Hates Cleaning! That sounds like a bumper sticker.....**Kathy Hates Cleaning**. We could make up a bunch of bumper stickers....**Carolyn Hates Cleaning**.....**Judy Hates Cleaning**.....**Alison Hates Cleaning**. Let's face it, most people are not in love with the job of cleaning their homes, but it is a necessity. So, Kathy is like most of you she may hate cleaning, but she likes a clean home and this constant contradiction is a cause for a lot of mental anguish.

Kathy recently told me this story;

"I've made a deal," she said, "with a girlfriend, that if I die, she is to run over to my place and clean my oven and I will do the same thing for her." She added, "I don't want anybody to see my dirty oven."

If my oven was that dirty and it bothered me so much that I had to make such a morbid deal with a friend, I think I would just

clean my oven and keep it clean. I don't think I would ever let it get to the point where it was so dirty I just couldn't talk myself into the task. If this sounds self-righteous, I apologize, but that is the way I think.

My **RCS** would allow Kathy to keep her oven clean without the trauma she associates with the job.

I have been trying for some time to get her to use my system, but to no avail. After hearing this death deal story, I am even more convinced that she should be using this cleaning system. It is to help make life a little easier for people like my friend Kathy that I write this book.