SOMETHING LIGHTER

The Three-Layer Mess Theory: What to Do First

There's a popular idea called the three-layer mess theory. A home won't look clean until three layers are handled, in order. Skip the first two, and the cleaning takes hours.

In this order

- ☐ First you declutter.
- ☐ Then you organize, so everything has a home.
- ☐ Then you clean.

When it has all piled up

- ☐ Start with one surface instead of the mop.
- ☐ One counter, one chair, one corner of the couch.
- ☐ Give everything on it a home. Then the next one.

On a busy day, one quick layer

- ☐ Put the tissue box back.
- ☐ Put the cereal back in the pantry.

Keeping a clean home means doing it little by little, every day, so it never piles up into hours.