

The simple reason why men do less housework, on average, than women

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Men walk into a room and apparently can't see the dust bunnies gathering on the floor or the piles of laundry stacked up on the couch. It is a common explanation for why men don't do as much housework as women. This myth lets men off the hook for not doing their fair share of the household cleaning.</p> <p>But a recent study shows that men aren't dirt-blind. They are simply less severely penalized for not keeping their spaces neat and tidy.</p> <p>In the study, participants rated photos differently depending on whether they were told that a woman or a man lived there. Notably, respondents held higher standards of cleanliness for women than they did for men.</p> <p>That people attribute greater responsibility for housework to women than men suggests that women get penalized more often for clutter than men do. Some women may internalize or embrace such standards. For many, it is a fear of how mess will be perceived that is the real problem — and one possible reason why many women frantically clean their home before unexpected visitors arrive.</p> <p>The good news is that, with enough collective willpower, old-fashioned social expectations can be changed. We could start by thinking twice before judging the state of someone's home, especially our own.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	