

# Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale

This form has been designed for service providers to respond to situations involving squalor. This form assists with rating the cleanliness of a person's accommodation. The first page may be removed if it is desirable to de-identify the person when communicating with other agencies<sup>7</sup>.

## DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

<b>NAME OF PERSON</b>						
<b>DOB / APPROX.</b>				<b>GENDER</b>	MALE	FEMALE
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	SINGLE	MARRIED	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	SEPARATED	NOT SURE
<b>ADDRESS</b>						

<b>DOES HE/SHE LIVE ALONE?</b>				YES	NO
<b>IF NOT, WHO WITH?</b>					
<b>NUMBER &amp; TYPE OF PETS</b>					
<b>HOME OWNERSHIP</b>	Owner	Tenant private	Tenant social housing	Other e.g. lodger	
<b>ACCOMODATION</b>	House	Unit	Bedsit	Other	
<b>How long has she / he been living like this?</b>	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	4 - 10 years	Over 10 years	
<b>Known medical illnesses or disabilities</b>					
<b>Mental disorders now or in the past</b>					

7. Source: Halliday G, Snowdon J, 2006 Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale (ECCS) based on the version devised by Snowdon (1986), which mostly used items listed by Macmillan & Shaw (1966). Some descriptions used by Samios (1996) in her adaption of the scale have been included.

# Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale

Raters should circle the box or number that best fits their observations in relation to the different items. These descriptions are meant to be indicative, but raters may decide between one category and another based on aspects not mentioned in the boxes.

<b>NAME OF RATER</b>			
<b>RATER'S PHONE NO.</b>		<b>DATE</b>	

<b>A</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY (CLUTTER)</b>				<b>SCORE</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>EASY TO ENTER</b> and move about dwelling	<b>SOMEWHAT</b> impaired access, but can get into all rooms	<b>MODERATELY</b> impaired access. Difficult or impossible to get into one or two rooms or areas	<b>SEVERELY IMPAIRED</b> access, e.g. obstructed front door. Unable to reach most or all areas in the dwelling	
	<b>0-29%</b>	<b>30-59%</b>	<b>60-89%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	
Of floor space inaccessible for use or walking across					

<b>B</b>	<b>ACCUMULATION OF REFUSE OR GARBAGE</b>				<b>SCORE</b>
	In general, is there evidence of excessive accumulation of garbage or refuse, e.g. food waste, packaging, plastic wrapping, discarded containers (tins, bottles, cartons, bags) or other unwanted material?				
	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>NONE</b>	<b>LITTLE</b> Bins overflowing and / or up to 10 emptied containers scattered around.	<b>MODERATE</b> Garbage and refuse littered throughout dwelling. Accumulated bags, boxes and / or piles of garbage that should have been disposed of.	<b>LOTS</b> Garbage and food waste piled knee high in kitchen and elsewhere. Clearly no recent attempt to remove refuse and garbage.	

# Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale

C	<b>ACCUMULATION OF ITEMS OF LITTLE OBVIOUS VALUE</b>				SCORE
	In general, is there evidence of accumulation of items that most people would consider are of little use or should be thrown away?				
	0	1	2	3	
	<b>NONE</b>	<b>SOME ACCUMULATION,</b> but collected items are organised in some way and do not much impede movement or prevent cleaning or access to furniture and appliances.	<b>MODERATE EXCESSIVE ACCUMULATION:</b> items cover furniture in most areas and have accumulated throughout the dwelling so that it would be very difficult to keep clean.	<b>MARKEDLY EXCESSIVE ACCUMULATION:</b> items piled at least waist high in all or most areas. Cleaning would be virtually impossible. Most furniture and appliances are inaccessible.	

D	<b>CLEANLINESS OF FLOORS AND CARPETS (excluding toilet and bathroom)</b>				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
		<b>ACCEPTABLE CLEAN IN ALL ROOMS</b>	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> Floors and carpets look as if not cleaned or swept for days. Scattered rubbish.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> Floors and carpets very dirty and look as if not cleaned for months. Rate 1 if only one room or small area affected.	

E	<b>CLEANLINESS OF WALLS &amp; VISIBLE FURNITURE SURFACES &amp; WINDOW SILLS</b>				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
		<b>ACCEPTABLE CLEAN IN ALL ROOMS</b>	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> Dusty or dirty surfaces. Dirt comes off walls on damp rag or finger.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> Grime or dirt on walls. Cobwebs and other signs of neglect. Greasy, messy, wet and/or grubby furniture.	

# Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale

F	BATHROOM AND TOILET				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
	<b>REASONABLY CLEAN</b>	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> Untidy, uncleaned, grubby floor, basin, toilet, walls and so on. Toilet may be unflushed.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY</b> Large areas of floor, basin, shower / bath are dirty, with scattered rubbish, hair, cigarette ends and so on. Faeces and/or urine on outside of toilet bowl.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> Rubbish and/or excrement on floor and in bath or shower and/or basin. Uncleaned for months or years. Toilet may be blocked and full of excreta.	

G	KITCHEN AND FOOD				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
	<b>CLEAN / HYGIENIC</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> Cooktop, sink untidy and surfaces dirty, maybe with some spilt food. Refuse mainly in garbage bin. Food that could go off (e.g. meat, remains of meal) left uncovered and out of fridge. Rate 1 if no food but fridge dirty.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> Oven, sink, surfaces, floor are dirty, with piles of unwashed crockery and utensils and so on. Bins overflowing. Some rotten or mouldy food. Fridge unclean.	<b>VERY DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> Sink, cooktop, insides of all cupboards filthy. Large amount of refuse and garbage over surfaces and floor. Much of the food is putrid, covered with mould and/or rotten and unsafe to eat. Rate 3 if maggots seen.	

H	ODOUR				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
	<b>ACCEPTABLE CLEAN IN ALL ROOMS</b>	<b>UNPLEASANT</b> e.g. Urine smell, unaired.	<b>MODERATELY MALODOROUS</b> Bad but rater can stay in the room.	<b>UNBEARABLY MALODOROUS</b> Rater has to leave room very soon because of smell.	

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I	VERMIN PLEASE CIRCLE: RATS MICE COCKROACHES FLIES FLEAS OTHER							SCORE
	0	1	2	3				
	NONE	FEW (For example, cockroaches).	MODERATE Visible evidence of vermin in moderate numbers for example, droppings & chewed newspapers.	INFESTATION Alive and / or dead in large numbers.				

J	SLEEPING AREA				SCORE
	0	1	2	3	
	REASONABLY CLEAN AND TIDY	MILDLY UNCLEAN Untidy, bed unmade, sheets unwashed for weeks.	MODERATELY DIRTY Bed sheets unclean, stained for example with urine or faeces Clothes and/or rubbish over surrounding floor areas.	VERY DIRTY Mattress or sleeping surface unclean or damaged. Either no sheets or (if present) extremely dirty bedding / linen.	

**RESULTS** NB: A score of greater than 12 indicates moderate or severe squalor.

		Total Score		
Do you think the person is living in squalor? (circle one)	NO	YES mild - not cluttered	YES, moderate - not clutter	YES severe - not clutter
	CLUTTER (lots) not squalor	YES mild + clutter (lots)	YES moderate + clutter (lots)	YES severe + clutter (lots)

Comments or description to clarify, amplify, justify or expand on above ratings:

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS - TO ADD TO DESCRIPTION, BUT NOT TO SCORE

<b>PERSONAL CLEANLINESS</b>			
Describe the clothing worn by the occupant and their general appearance			
0	1	2	3
<b>CLEAN AND NEAT.</b> Well cared for.	<b>UNTIDY, CRUMPLED.</b> One or two dirty marks and in need of a wash.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY.</b> With unpleasant odour, stained clothing.	<b>VERY DIRTY.</b> Stained, torn clothes. Malodorous.

Is there running water in the dwelling?	YES	NO
Is electricity connected and working?	YES	NO
Can the dwelling be locked up and made secure?	YES	NO

<b>MAINTENANCE, UPKEEP AND STRUCTURE</b>			
This rates the state of repair and upkeep by owner / landlord. If the accommodation was cleaned up as much as possible, to what extent would the dwelling require painting, refurbishment, structural repairs and so on before it would be reasonably habitable?			
0	1	2	3
<b>NONE</b>	<b>LITTLE</b> – minor repairs and some painting.	<b>FAIR AMOUNT</b> – some structural repairs plus painting.	<b>LOTS</b> – major structural repairs required, then painting.

<b>To what extent do the living conditions make the dwelling unsafe or unhealthy for visitors or occupant(s)?</b>			
0	1	2	3
<b>NOT AT ALL</b>	<b>POSSIBLE RISK</b> – of injury for example by falling.	<b>CONSIDERABLE RISK</b> – of fire, injury or health problem.	<b>VERY UNSAFE</b> – the dwelling is so cluttered and unhealthy that people should not enter it (except specialists with appropriate clothing and equipment) and/or there is a high fire-risk.