

Environmental Cleanliness and Clutter Scale (ECCS)*

This form has been designed for service providers to respond to situations involving squalor. The form assists with rating the cleanliness of a person’s accommodation.

This first page may be removed if it is desirable to de-identify the person when communicating with other agencies.

Demographic details						
Name of person	Surname			Other names		
Date of birth <i>and/or</i> approximate age of person						
Gender (<i>please circle</i>)	Male			Female		
Marital status (<i>please circle</i>)	Single	Married/ de facto	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Not sure?
Address						
Does he/she live alone? (<i>please circle</i>)	Yes			No		
If not, who with?						
Number and type of pets						
Home ownership	Owner	Tenant – private		Tenant – DOH	Other – non-owner (e.g. lodger)	
Accommodation type	House	Unit	Bedsit	Other (specify)		
How long has he/she been living like this? (<i>please circle</i>)	Less than 1 year	1–3 years	4–10 years	Over 10 years		
Known medical illnesses and/or disabilities						
Mental disorders now or in the past						

* 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 adaptation of the scale have been included.

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.

Name of rater:
Rater's phone no: Date:

A	Accessibility (clutter)			
	0	1	2	3
	Easy To enter and move about dwelling.	Somewhat Impaired access, but can get into all rooms.	Moderately Impaired access. Difficult or impossible to get into one or two rooms or areas.	Severely impaired access, for example, obstructed front door. Unable to reach most or all areas in the dwelling.
	0–29%	30–59%	60–89%	90–100%
of floor space inaccessible for use or walking across				

B	Accumulation of refuse or garbage			
	In general, is there evidence of excessive accumulation of garbage or refuse, eg, food waste, packaging, plastic wrapping, <u>discarded</u> containers (tins, bottles, cartons, bags) or other <u>unwanted</u> material?			
	0	1	2	3
	None	Little Bins overflowing and/or up to 10 emptied containers scattered around.	Moderate Garbage and refuse littered throughout dwelling. Accumulated bags, boxes and/or piles of garbage that should have been disposed of.	Lots Garbage and food waste piled knee-high in kitchen and elsewhere. Clearly no recent attempt to remove refuse and garbage

C	Accumulation of items of little obvious value			
	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
	None	Some accumulation , but collected items are organised in some way and do not much impede movement or prevent cleaning or access to furniture and appliances.	Moderate excessive accumulation: items cover furniture in most areas, and have accumulated throughout the dwelling so that it would be very difficult to keep clean.	Markedly excessive accumulation: items piled at least waist-high in all or most areas. Cleaning would be virtually impossible: most furniture and appliances are inaccessible.

Please indicate types of items that have been accumulated:

- Newspapers, pamphlets, and so on Clothing Other items
 (what?)
 Electrical appliances Plastic bags full of items
 (If known, what items?)

D	Cleanliness of floors and carpets (excluding toilet and bathroom)			
	0	1	2	3
	Acceptably clean in all rooms.	Mildly dirty Floors and carpets look as if not cleaned or swept for days. Scattered rubbish.	Very dirty Floors and carpets very dirty look as if not cleaned for months. Rate 1 if only one room or small area affected.	Exceedingly filthy With rubbish or dirt throughout dwelling. Excrement usually merits a 3 score.

E	Cleanliness of walls and visible furniture surfaces and window sills			
	0	1	2	3
	Acceptably clean in all rooms.	Mildly dirty Dusty or dirty surfaces. Dirt comes off walls on damp rag or finger.	Very dirty Grime or dirt on walls. Cobwebs and other signs of neglect. Greasy, messy, wet and/or grubby furniture.	Exceedingly filthy Walls, furniture, surfaces are so dirty (for example, with faeces or urine) that rater wouldn't want to touch them.

F	Bathroom and toilet			
	0	1	2	3
	Reasonably clean.	Mildly dirty Untidy, uncleaned, grubby floor, basin, toilet, walls and so on. Toilet may be unflushed.	Moderately dirty 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.	Very dirty Rubbish and/or excrement on floor and in bath or shower and/or basin. Uncleaned for months or years. Toilet may be blocked and bowl full of excreta.

G	Kitchen and food			
	0	1	2	3
	Clean. Hygienic.	Somewhat dirty and unhygienic Cooktop, sink untidy and surfaces dirty, maybe with some spilt food. Refuse mainly in garbage bin. Food that could go off (eg, meat, remains of meal) left uncovered and out of fridge. Rate 1 if no food, but fridge dirty.	Moderately dirty and unhygienic 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.	Very dirty and unhygienic 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			
	0	1	2	3
	Nil. Pleasant.	Unpleasant , eg, urine smell, unaired.	Moderately malodorous : bad, but rater can stay in room.	Unbearably malodorous : rater has to leave room very soon because of smell.

I	Vermin (Please circle: rats, mice, cockroaches, flies, fleas, other)			
	0	1	2	3
	None	Few (for example, cockroaches).	Moderate : visible evidence of vermin in moderate numbers for example, droppings and chewed newspapers.	Infestation : alive and/or dead in large numbers.

J	SLEEPING AREA			
	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 faeces or urine. 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.

Add up circled numbers to provide **total score**:

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Do you think this person is living in squalor? (circle one)	No	Yes, mild – not clutter	Yes, moderate – not clutter	Yes, severe – not clutter
	Clutter – (lots), not squalor	Yes, mild + clutter (lots)	Yes, moderate + clutter (lots)	Yes, severe + clutter (lots)

Supplementary questions – to add to description, but not to score

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

Personal cleanliness			
Describe the clothing worn by the occupant and their general appearance:			
0	1	2	3
Clean and neat. Well cared for.	Untidy, crumpled: one or two dirty marks and in need of wash	Moderately dirty: with unpleasant odour. stained clothing.	Very dirty: stained, torn clothes, malodorous.

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

Maintenance, upkeep, structure			
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
None	Little – minor repairs and some painting.	Fair amount – some structural repairs plus painting.	Lots – major structural repairs required, and then painting.

To what extent do the living conditions make the dwelling unsafe or unhealthy for visitors or occupant(s)?			
0	1	2	3
Not at all	Possible risk – of injury for example, by falling.	Considerable risk – of fire, injury or health problem.	Very unsafe – the dwelling is so cluttered and unhealthy that people should not enter it, (except specialists with appropriate clothing and equipment) and/or there is high fire-risk.