

Adulting

How often do you perform **home maintenance tasks** like checking smoke detectors, cleaning gutters, or inspecting appliances?

- ☐ **Regularly**—I stay on top of it.
- ☐ **Occasionally**—I fix things when I remember.
- ☐ **Rarely**—I wait until something breaks.
- ☐ **Never**—I don't know how or don't think about it.
- **Bucket 1:** "Proactive" – Regularly
 - **Bucket 2:** "Occasional" – Occasionally
 - **Bucket 3:** "Infrequent" – Rarely or Never
- Just **34%** of respondents say they perform home maintenance tasks **regularly**.
 - **Parents are significantly more proactive:** 40% of respondents with children perform home maintenance proactively vs. 30% without children

Total 833		by metro 833			has children? 668			by age group 833			
home_maintenance	2025	home_maintenance	Portland Metro	Seattle Metro	home_maintenance	has children	no children	home_maintenance	< 35	35 - 54	55+
Proactive	34%	Proactive	35%	33%	Proactive	40%	30%	Proactive	33%	33%	37%
Occasional	43%	Occasional	41%	45%	Occasional	46%	40%	Occasional	40%	48%	40%
Infrequent	23%	Infrequent	24%	21%	Infrequent	15%	30%	Infrequent	26%	19%	24%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%

Who taught you how to handle **basic home maintenance**?

- ☐ **My parents or family** members.
- ☐ I learned through **trial and error**.
- ☐ **Online** videos and tutorials.
- ☐ I **still don't know** how to do most of it.
- **Parents/family** are the dominant source of home maintenance knowledge (44%), followed by **trial & error** (24%) and **online resources** (22%).
 - Respondents under 35 are over **twice as likely** to cite online learning compared to those 55+

Total 833		by metro 833			has children? 668			by age group 833			
method	2025	method	Portland Metro	Seattle Metro	method	has children	no children	method	< 35	35 - 54	55+
family	44%	family	42%	47%	family	44%	49%	family	41%	43%	51%
trial & error	24%	online	20%	23%	online	26%	17%	online	25%	25%	10%
online	22%	trial & error	29%	19%	trial & error	26%	19%	trial & error	24%	22%	27%
I still don't know	10%	I still don't know	8%	11%	I still don't know	4%	16%	I still don't know	9%	9%	12%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%

Do you have an **emergency fund** for unexpected home or car repairs?

- ☐ **Yes**, I have money set aside.
- ☐ **Somewhat**—I try to save, but it's not enough.
- ☐ **Not really**, I'd have to put it on a credit card.
- ☐ **No**, I don't think about it.

- **Bucket 1:** "Prepared" – Yes
- **Bucket 2:** "Partially Prepared" – Somewhat
- **Bucket 3:** "Unprepared" – No or Credit Card

Only 35% of respondents reported having an emergency fund for unexpected home or car repairs.
This rate is significantly lower among households earning **under \$50k**, where just 11% have an emergency fund,

Total 833		by income 819				has children? 668			by age group 833			
emergency_fund	2025	emergency_fund	< \$50k	\$50k - \$100k	\$100k +	emergency_fund	has children	no children	emergency_fund	< 35	35 - 54	55+
Prepared	35%	Prepared	11%	31%	59%	Prepared	44%	30%	Prepared	34%	33%	40%
Partially Prepared	29%	Partially Prepared	24%	36%	26%	Partially Prepared	30%	27%	Partially Prepared	33%	28%	24%
Unprepared	36%	Unprepared	64%	33%	16%	Unprepared	26%	43%	Unprepared	33%	39%	37%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%


Which of these “adulting” skills do you feel **confident** in? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Budgeting and managing money
- ☐ Basic car maintenance (e.g., changing a tire, checking oil)
- ☐ Home maintenance (e.g., fixing a leaky faucet, unclogging a drain)
- ☐ Cooking meals from scratch
- ☐ Filing taxes without outside help
- ☐ ✖ None of the above—I’m still learning!

- Buckets:
- **Financial:** Budget/money, Taxes
 - **Practical:** Home maintenance, Car maintenance
 - **Cooking:** Cooking

Confidence in financial skills is highest across the board and significantly higher among those 55+ (73%) vs under 35 (46%)

Couldn't decide whether bucketing the answers was useful or not so giving both.

Buckets Total 833		Buckets by income 819 				Buckets: has children? 668			Buckets by age group 833			
skill	2025	skill	< \$50k	\$50k - \$100k	\$100k +	skill	has children	no children	skill	< 35	35 - 54	55+
Financial	59%	Financial	53%	58%	63%	Financial	57%	58%	Financial	46%	62%	73%
Practical	28%	Practical	27%	31%	28%	Practical	34%	25%	Practical	36%	27%	16%
Cooking	10%	Cooking	14%	8%	7%	Cooking	8%	11%	Cooking	12%	7%	10%
None	4%	None	7%	2%	3%	None	2%	5%	None	6%	3%	1%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%

total

833

skill	2025
budget/money	57%
car maint.	19%
cooking	10%
home maint.	9%
none	4%
taxes	2%
Sum	100%

by income

819

skill	< \$50k	\$50k - \$100k	\$100k +
budget/money	50%	57%	61%
car maint.	17%	24%	18%
cooking	14%	8%	7%
home maint.	10%	8%	10%
none	7%	2%	3%
taxes	3%	2%	2%
Sum	100%	100%	100%

has children?

668

skill	has children	no children
budget/money	55%	57%
car maint.	23%	16%
cooking	8%	11%
home maint.	11%	9%
none	2%	5%
taxes	2%	1%
Sum	100%	100%

by age group

833

skill	< 35	35 - 54	55+
budget/money	43%	59%	73%
car maint.	22%	19%	13%
cooking	12%	7%	10%
home maint.	14%	8%	3%
none	6%	3%	1%
taxes	3%	3%	0%
Sum	100%	100%	100%

Has an unexpected home or car repair resulted in a **financial burden** for your household?

- 49% of respondents say an unexpected home or car repair has caused financial strain.
- ☐

 Yes
- ☐

 No
- ☐

 Decline to answer

Total 817		by metro 817			has children? 657			by age group 817			
burden	2025	burden	Portland Metro	Seattle Metro	burden	has children	no children	burden	< 35	35 - 54	55+
yes	49%	yes	50%	48%	yes	54%	42%	yes	53%	49%	42%
no	51%	no	50%	52%	no	46%	58%	no	47%	51%	58%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%

Do you think most people in the PNW are **proactive** about managing household tasks and maintenance?

- ☐

 Yes, people here plan ahead.
- ☐

 Somewhat—some are, but many put things off.
- ☐

 No, a lot of people only react when something breaks.
- ☐

 I'm not sure.

Total 756		by gender 755				has children? 613		
proactive_pnw	2025	proactive_pnw	Man	Non-binary	Woman	proactive_pnw	has children	no children
somewhat	61%	somewhat	56%	70%	66%	somewhat	60%	63%
yes	24%	yes	32%	15%	15%	yes	31%	15%
no	15%	no	12%	15%	19%	no	9%	22%
Sum	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%

by age group 756				by metro 756			by income group 746			
proactive_pnw	< 35	35 - 54	55+	proactive_pnw	Portland Metro	Seattle Metro	proactive_pnw	< \$50k	\$100k +	\$50k - \$100k
somewhat	55%	62%	70%	somewhat	60%	62%	somewhat	65%	57%	61%
yes	32%	23%	9%	yes	23%	24%	yes	16%	31%	23%
no	13%	15%	21%	no	17%	14%	no	20%	12%	16%
Sum	100%	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	Sum	100%	100%	100%