

# 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
Financial	<b>59%</b>
Practical	28%
Cooking	10%
None	4%
Sum	100%

skill	< \$50k	\$50k - \$100k	\$100k +
Financial	<b>53%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>63%</b>
Practical	27%	31%	28%
Cooking	14%	8%	7%
None	7%	2%	3%
Sum	100%	100%	100%

skill	has children	no children
Financial	<b>57%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Practical	34%	25%
Cooking	8%	11%
None	2%	5%
Sum	100%	100%

skill	< 35	35 - 54	55+
Financial	46%	<b>62%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Practical	36%	27%	16%
Cooking	12%	7%	10%
None	6%	3%	1%
Sum	100%	100%	100%

Total 833

by income 819 ▾

has children? 668

by age group 833

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

skill	< \$50k	\$50k - \$100k	\$100k +
budget/money	50%	<b>57%</b>	<b>61%</b>
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%

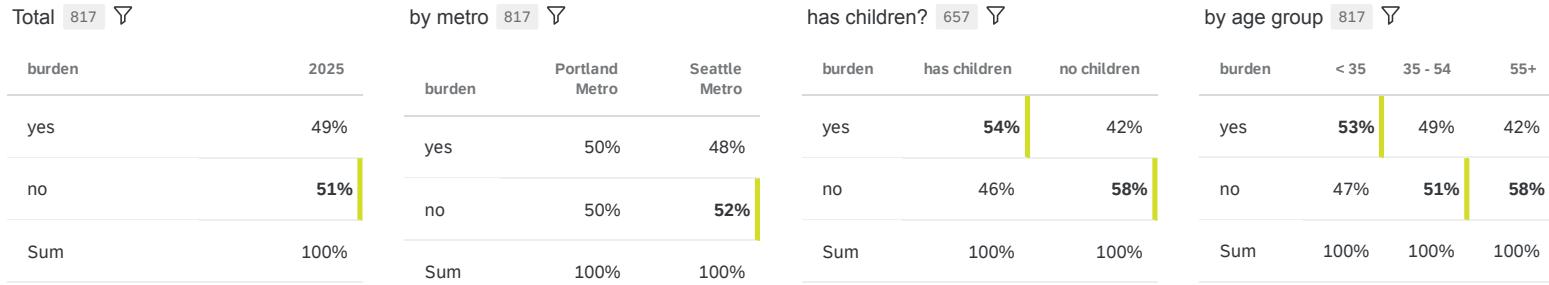
skill	has children	no children
budget/money	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>
car maint.	23%	16%
cooking	8%	11%
home maint.	11%	9%
none	2%	5%
taxes	2%	1%
Sum	100%	100%

skill	< 35	35 - 54	55+
budget/money	43%	<b>59%</b>	<b>73%</b>
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



## 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.

