

Hello, Friends!

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Are you a Millennial or know of someone who was born between 1980 and 2000? There have always been major differences among all generations, and it's certainly true with Millennials. For one thing, this generation believes that "less is more." If you know or are a Millennial, does this apply to you?

Here are a few household items Millennials struggle with:

Pictures:

They save their pictures on their phones (and rarely print anything out.) They also keep short videos, whereas older generations have boxes full of pictures, albums and videos. (How many different video cameras do you have sitting in your closets?) Multiple generations struggle with this topic, and they just choose to handle them in different ways.

Electronics:

Electronics are their lifeline. They backup everything to the cloud and laptop... (and yes, they know what the "cloud" is).

A lot of Millennials use only an electronic calendar and bring their laptops into meetings to capture notes — not necessarily using paper and pen, like many of us in older generations. Millennials reference their emails or text messages a lot because they don't print anything out.

Another great example of generational differences are bank and credit card statements. For Millennials, everything is electronic so they access their bank or charge cards online.

I realize I'm old-fashioned, since I print out all my bank statements and most other forms. But in the last 10 years, my bank has gone through five different ownerships, causing concern. If someone ever gets audited, how could they access the past bank records? Just saying...

I enjoyed gathering information for this topic. Among other research, I interviewed my daughter and her roommate, Sydney, and they shared a few more observations:

Millennials live simply:

They use their candles — they don't have them just for show. My daughter pointed it out that for many years I had candles that were never lit, as I used them only for decorations. That's a reasonable point.

They enjoy easy entertaining:

Millennials aren't into special occasion dinnerware and silverware. Many young couples getting married aren't even registering for those types of categories, as my kids have noticed from invitations. But kids their age like using appropriate glassware — such as mule glasses and multiple styles of beer glasses.

My daughter also mentioned that many people her age do not have guest towels or towels that are just used for show. They just use their everyday towels.

Furniture isn't forever:

For many Millennials, furniture isn't an investment. It's purchased for the short term and doesn't have to last them a lifetime. If they get a few years out of it, they're happy with it, unlike older generations that often keep furniture a long time.

Finally, Millennials enjoy experiences:

They are more likely to save for an "experience" like travel versus saving for bigger traditional items, such as a new refrigerator. In general, Millennials dine out more often than other generations, and they are the prime users of meal preparation kits in the U.S. Fewer of them have learned to cook, but they enjoy preparing food more as an experience than simply to eat.

What other differences have you seen with your Millennials? Drop me an email and I'll include a follow-up in a future newsletter.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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