



Building Hope and Homes... One Family at a Time.

Sweat-equity Requirements

What is sweat-equity?

Sweat-equity is a core tenet of Habitat's ministry. It is Habitat's most valuable tool in building the partnership between partner families, affiliate staff, and volunteers. Sweat-equity refers to the actual hands-on involvement of partner families in the construction of their own homes, as well as participation in homeowner education and other Habitat and community activities. Sweat-equity represents a partner family's physical and emotional investment in the mission of Habitat.

Why does Habitat require sweat-equity?

Sweat-equity is an exciting cornerstone to the Habitat ministry, designed to meet three important goals:

- **Partnership** – Sweat-equity provides meaningful interaction between partner families, Habitat staff, and Habitat volunteers and the community.
- **Pride in homeownership** – Investing sweat-equity hours in their home helps families transition to home ownership.
- **Development of skills and knowledge** – On the building site, partner family members gain a real understanding of the construction of their home and of maintenance issues they will face after occupancy.

How many hours do I need?

Per applicant

250 hours minimum

Hours worked on my home?

Each applicant must complete at least 100 hours on the construction of their own home.

What is a partner family?

A partner family is the applicant(s) and the household members who will be living with them in the Habitat house.

How much time do I have to complete all my hours?

- All of the sweat-equity hours must be completed before a partner family moves into their Habitat home.

How will I keep track of my hours?

Habitat will give partner families a coupon book in which to record hours. They can send or bring coupons to the Habitat office monthly or give them directly to the Homeowner Services Manager.

What types of opportunities are there for sweat-equity hours?

- Work at construction sites.
- Homebuyer education classes (budget/finance, home maintenance, how to be a good neighbor, etc.).
- Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity ReStore.
- Media and fundraising opportunities.



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What is a partnership attitude? Making sweat-equity fun!

Work at the construction site is fun and rewarding. Partner families are expected to work side-by-side with Habitat volunteers and staff for a full day every week. Work days include Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 am to 3:30 pm. It is important to show up on time, join in lunch and special celebrations, and help with cleanup at the end of the day. Construction skills are not necessary, but willingness to learn and a cooperative attitude are important parts of a good partner. It takes a large circle of friends to build a Habitat house and partner families should be at the center of that circle working together to build communities – one house, one family at a time.

What happens if I don't complete my sweat-equity hours?

Completing sweat-equity hours is one of the most important ways partner families show their willingness to partner with Habitat. If a partner family does not complete the hours, Habitat may decide that they are not willing partners and the partner family can be "de-selected," which means they would not get to purchase a Habitat house.

(If special circumstances make it difficult for an applicant to complete their hours, Habitat staff will help them make a plan so that the hours can be completed. Please call the Homeowner Services Manager at (970) 488-2605 for assistance.)