

NOOK & CRANNY

Monthly Newsletter

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You will either step forward into growth, or you will step backward into safety.

- Abraham Maslow

Decluttering Made Simple

Here is a simple list to declutter, just the thing to get you started for organization and tidying up your spaces.

1. Start by removing trash.
2. Begin by choosing one small area to organize — like a drawer.
3. Sort items into three piles: Keep, donate and toss.
4. Find a specific home for everything you intend to keep — for example, a hook for your keys.
5. Group similar items together instead of storing them in multiple places, so you always know where to find them.
6. If you buy something new, pledge to get rid of something else to limit items in your home.
7. If you're holding on to items to pass to the next generation, ask your heirs if they want the items. ...
8. Don't try to do everything all at once—schedule limited amounts of time to declutter and organize regularly.



From our family to yours, have a safe and Happy Independence Day!





Organization cont.

Pantry

Stock shelves like the grocery store does. By placing the newest boxes, containers, and cans behind the older stuff, you'll use the older food first. Keep stock of what you actually have by placing dry foods (including cereals, beans, nuts, and flour) in labeled containers.

Under the Sink

"Maximize the space under the sink by adding stackable storage like bins and drawers to make the most out of the open space," suggests Rachel Rosenthal, founder of Rachel & Company. If you find yourself reaching for these products often (think: soap, feminine hygiene products, and spare rolls of toilet paper), then try a stackable cabinet with a sliding drawer for easy access.

Linen Closet

You can never have enough sheets and towels... until your closet is overflowing with mismatched, ratty, and well-loved linens. Instead of tucking them away in baskets, place everything straight on the shelves so that you can see exactly what you have. Use shelf dividers to keep everything separated and prevent stacks from toppling over. Rosenthal's top tip: Store sheets sets within the pillowcase to take the stress out of making the bed.

So You Need Organization?!

Whip your home into shape by following these expert tips and tricks for tidying spaces — your closet, playroom, bathroom, and more — that are notorious for collecting clutter. Your hard work will pay off in the long run. You'll see.

Mail and Miscellaneous Papers

Your junk drawer is already packed with, well, junk. Set up a (literal) in-box for all of your papers — mail, receipts, and your kid's notes from school — and sort through the pile once a week. When a guest comes, pop on the lid to hide the clutter.

Junk "Drawer" or Grocery Shopping

Take advantage of your kitchen cabinets by turning the backs into an organization station. "Sort everything into categories and file in pocket organizers, which stick on the inside of kitchen cabinet doors," said Leslie Josel, creator of Order Out of Chaos. This means you'll be able to track down Mom's beloved recipe without digging through a junk drawer.

Turn the back of a cabinet into a makeshift shopping station with an adhesive pocket for coupons and a chalkboard decal for shopping lists. And hey, you can even include your home's wifi password in case the next time the kids' friends come over.



Where To Donate After You're Done?

Now that your home is clutter-free and organized, what to do with the items you no longer need? Donating, of course!

It's a win-win, you've gotten rid of the clutter, and someone might need those items.

Before you donate, please make sure the item is suitable for donation - no broken, dirty, or 'questionable' items.

Research where you plan to donate to be sure it aligns with your personal values.

PLACES TO DROP OFF DONATIONS

Goodwill

Goodwill accepts most clothing and household items. If you want to donate items such as computers or mattresses, you should contact your local Goodwill to ask about any restrictions.

Salvation Army

(pickup available in some areas)

The Salvation Army is unable to accept items that are damaged, stained, or contain pet hair.

Read the [article](#) for the remainder of the list.

Organization cont.

Practice File Folding

Folding towels (or even t-shirts!) upright allows you to see everything you own in a single glance. Color code from light to dark for added organization.

Craft Supplies

Unless you're an avid crafter, you probably don't bust out your ribbon stash on the daily. Before gift giving season hits, set up a portable (& pretty!) ribbon station by placing the color-coordinated spools in a shallow box. When it comes to wrap, you can shop through your stash to find what you need.

Clothes

Take a note from the fashion experts to make your mornings so much easier. "Take tried-and-true outfits and hang the items together — shirts, pants, and accessories," suggests Stacy London, former host of What Not to Wear. By placing clothes and their coordinating accessories on streamlined velvet hangers, you'll be able to fit more in your closet, no matter the size.

The list of tips goes on, so make sure to check the [Good Housekeeping](#) site for all of them.