

Spring Cleaning: Organization 101

Written by Written by Christine Whitton

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Order in the cupboards! With spring almost sprung, it's time to cut clutter and reorganize. After all, how can one begin to find the necessary party essentials for summer's up-and-coming soirees with everything in such disarray? Don't panic, we at AFM have decided to help. Below is a fun-filled list of how to get organized. The motto: deep breaths.

Cramped Corners



Today, closets have become an industry in itself. Whether it's walk-ins, reach-ins, the children's or your own, women and men alike enjoy a refined space where their belongings are all within reach. There's no more flinging cloths or jumbling shoes together. Now closets offer their own accessories, like counter space and jewelry draws. To keep your closet tidy, tie in shoe rails for accessible footwear and space clothing evenly on hangars. .

Party in the Pantry



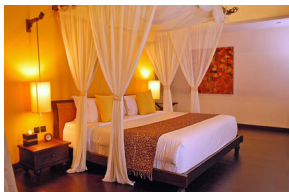
Call me compulsive, but there is nothing better than an organized pantry. Dinner is overwhelming enough without youngsters chiming in on what they will and will not eat, than having to shuffling through an already burdensome closet. Organize your pantry like a supermarket: soups, sauces and canned good on one shelf; bottles and liquids on another; and dry goods, like pasta and rice on the pantry's lowest level. This allows quick, easy access to necessities needed for meals.

Overflowing Office Space



There's nothing worse than stressing over a misplaced bill you know surfaced sometime last week. The perfect quick fix is to file it immediately. With plenty of boxes, filing systems and shelving units, sifting through paper should be pain free. As for everything else, shred it.

Bringing Down the Bedroom



If you want a good night's rest, start with the bedroom. After swapping your work attire for cozy leggings and an oversize sweatshirt, hang up any unused clothing. Straighten your bedding and organize your surroundings. Utilize under-the-bed storage boxes for seasonal clothing, while incorporating decorative boxes for excess closet storage. A calmer environment means a peaceful night's sleep.

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Good Grief Garages



O.K., guys, we ladies have come to understand that this space is solely at the use of men, just as long as you don't start hanging signs to state so. But, with that, comes rules. Yup, rules—because we'd like to locate a hammer when we need one. With the help of tool chests, racks and boxes this space could be functional and user friendly. Heck, most even come equipped with a stocked fridge.

Shady Shelving



Shelving is the most efficient way to keep organized. From handcrafted to stainless steel, shelving can be a quick alternative while deciding on a more permanent solution. Additionally, shelving can act as decorative furniture or the focal point of a room. The short (or tall) of it, is that this do-it-yourself item can alleviate a lot of unneeded hodgepodge.

Running on All Cylinders



We can all gather round and commiserate about how laundry seems never-ending, but what we really need is a plan. The solution: Utilizes hampers to color coordinate laundry loads. Each basket equals a load of laundry already sorted.

Bumbling Bathrooms



As the most (if not, definitely runner-up) trafficked space in any home, many may agree that bathrooms don't show their true potential. Covered from end-to-end with makeup, hair products and styling tools, most bathrooms help to spruce us up, yet lack in luster themselves. With the help of draw organizers, cosmetic pouches and under-the-counter shelving, many powder rooms can quickly be transfixed to showcase their sparkle and shine.

Dust Collectibles

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Part of living in the desert is learning to deal with dust. This annoying, often-allergic film settles on home accessories that often requires a good scrubbing. A suggestion may be to keep family heirlooms or traveling treasures behind glass. Although this option will not keep dust away, it will prolong the inevitable. As for photos, colorful albums and embellishing boxes help accessorize, arrange and attractively display mementos.

Mr. Clean-it Kitchens



With every gizmo and gadget a chef could want for, it's no wonder many cooks run out of their own kitchens. There are far too many contraptions to even remember where one put last night's whisk and spatula. A fool-proof choice is to keep it simple. From draw organizers to counter caddies, these all-in-one options keep essentials tidy while also be stylish.