

10 Great Tips for DECLUTTERING AND ORGANIZING (from My Clutter Queen | www.myclutterqueen.com)

Start small

You know that little drawer in your kitchen where all the takeout menus, rubber bands, twist ties and plastic cutlery go to die? It's time to dump out that drawer, toss the things you don't need, and put back what's left -- neatly. There! You've started decluttering.

Start really small

Declutter for 15 minutes per day. Set the timer on your smartphone or stove. Choose a small project. It could even be as small as a fruit and vegetable drawer in your refrigerator, or one corner of the countertop, the top of the fridge, or the spice rack.

Go to the corner

When beginning to declutter a room, choose a corner and move clockwise until you've completed that room. This could take hours or even days. Keep at it!

Love your thrift shop

Become familiar with your local thrift shop. It will be your greatest ally in keeping your home clutter free. Keep a box or large bag in a convenient place. Put items into it that you are ready to part with. As soon as the box or bag is filled, take it to the local thrift shop. By the way, if you're an animal lover, remember that animal shelters often seek used towels and bedding.

Bedtime storage

Use the space under your bed for storage.

Wear it or ditch it

If you haven't worn it in a year, it doesn't fit, or needs mending, take it to the thrift shop.

Will you really get that fixed?!

If you have stuff around the house that is broken, torn, or missing a part, get rid of it. Most people never get around to fixing things they swear they will.

Closets, one day at a time

It may be overwhelming to tackle an entire closet, so start with one category. How about shoes? Pair up all your shoes, then purge the ones that need repair, are worn out or out of style, or you are simply tired of. Take them to the thrift shop. Then start on a new category, say, belts, scarves, pants, or dresses.

Junk the mail

Open your mail each day, and do it over a wastebasket or recycling bin. Immediately ditch what you don't want or need.

Need a helping hand?

If dealing with your clutter gives you a feeling of paralysis, this is not unusual. You may want to consult with a professional organizer like My Clutter Queen (Boston, Mass.).
www.myclutterqueen.com