

The Decorating News



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Organizing 101



Did you know that January is officially "National Get Organized" Month?

But isn't this February's newsletter you say? Over the years, I have discovered that although many of us have grand plans to start fresh and "resolve" to be perfect in the new year, it's really not

until February that we really get going. So little me has unofficially declared **February** Get Organized Month and absolved you of your January lapse (my own as well). Now that you've been pardoned, let's get to work!

The number one reason lots of us fail to get organized is simple not scheduling the time to do it. The second reason is not knowing where to begin. If you are serious about getting and staying organized this year, you must do a few of things. The most important is to of course decide that you will make whatever changes necessary to get there. But, before you can get organized, chances are you need to pare down and de clutter. Here are 6 easy steps:

1. Set a de cluttering appointment in your calendar and **keep it**.
2. Begin in the room you spend the most time in or that has the most clutter.
3. Start with a small area at a time i.e. a closet, corner, or desktop.
4. Keep a notebook close to scribble reminders or notes that come to mind while you're working.
5. Label 5 boxes : "keep," "throw away," "donate," "sell," and "elsewhere".
6. **Be diligent!**

At the end of each de cluttering "appointment", be certain that each box is taken to where it belongs. Now you are ready to begin organizing.

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Get ready for the Spring Market

4 Essential Home-Selling Tips to Start Now!

1. Make Repairs. Fix anything you've been "meaning to get to".
2. De clutter. Start with the closets. Potential buyers look everywhere.
3. Neutralize. Update tired or bright rooms with a fresh neutral paint color.
4. Don't forget the floors. Replace worn carpet and refinish hardwood floors.



If you are not sure where to start, call One Pretty House Interiors to evaluate your home and help devise a plan!

*Want to learn more? Join us at the Great Indoors
for "Organization 101"
Saturday, February 21st*

visit www.1prettyhouse.com for details

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Once you've paired down, what do you do with the things you keep? The old saying holds true: "A place for everything, and everything in its place". Ask yourself these four questions when choosing a home for your treasures:

- How often do I use it?
- Where do I use it?
- How accessible is it?
- Does it belong in this room?

Things used frequently should be easily accessible and can be nicely displayed by choosing from a multitude of available baskets, bins and other decorative containers that match your style and decor.

Finally, staying organized can sometimes prove to be more difficult than the actual organizing. Here are a few helpful tips to keep you on track:

1. Deal with today's stuff today first (dishes, laundry etc) then work on the rest. It's easier to keep up then to catch up!
2. Never leave a room without improving it's appearance. To this day, my mother does not leave the kitchen without putting away 5 things!
3. Use the 12month rule. If you haven' touched something in the past 12 months, chances are you won't in the next. It's time to let it go!

Remember that the key to getting and staying organized is to keep it simple and to find a daily system that works for you. If you are overwhelmed hire a certified Redesigner or professional organizer.

For more resources on organizing visit www.1prettyhouse.com/newsletter

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