

Organize Your Life – Room by Room

Articles Included:

1. 5 Steps to a More Organized Bathroom
2. How to Organize Your Laundry in 4 Steps
3. An Organized Bedroom Makes Mornings a Breeze
4. An Organized Fridge is the Start of an Organized Kitchen
5. Keeping Kids' Rooms Clutter Free

5 Steps to a More Organized Bathroom

The bathroom is the most visited room in any home. It needs attention daily and if left untouched can quickly become the most disorganized room in the house. While the bathroom is not the most fun to organize and clean, if you follow these 5 quick and easy steps for organizing your bathroom, there will be no need to have to deep clean or reorganize for a while.

Step 1: Gather and sort all the items in your bathroom. That means everything from the vanity top, drawers, medicine cabinet, and even the linen closet. Sort everything into four different piles—keep, toss, give away, and then an “I’m not sure” pile to go through again at the very end.

Step 2: Clean everything. With hair spray and makeup and steam from the shower, the bathroom can get dirty fast. Now is a good time for a deep cleaning. Wash down the countertops, sinks, drawers, and shelves. If you have any old toothbrushes lying around, they make good scrubbing tools around faucets and drains. Clean the mirrors, wash the windows (if you have them) and clean the tub and toilet areas. If you have knick-knacks sitting in your bathroom or pictures hanging on the wall, get those down and give them a good washing off also.

Step 3: Put everything away. Start with the easiest space first--the medicine cabinet. Once you get things put away there, you can move on to the drawers, linen closet, etc. If you want to get really organized, purchase some drawer dividers to keep things such as makeup, shaving supplies, and nail care products neat and accessible. Extra items can be placed in clear plastic containers with lids, labeled clearly, and tucked away under the sink or in the linen closet.

If space is limited and you have a very small bathroom, you can use tall baskets or decorative containers with lids and place them on a rack that is over the toilet to store things like hairbrushes, soaps, and other toiletries.

Step 4: Pretty it up. If your bathroom is void of any decorations and the walls are bare, you might want to add some decorative touches or scented candles by the tub, and so on. An attractive, well-organized bathroom will be a joy to use and may even motivate you to move on to organize the rest of the house!

But remember – getting your bathroom, or any room in your home – organized is only the beginning. You’ll also need to have a plan in place to stay organized. In the bathroom, that might mean taking an extra 5 minutes every morning to put everything away, wipe down the vanity, and clean the sink. Teach everyone in your house to do these simple tasks after they’ve used the bathroom, and it will stay clean and orderly for a long time.

How to Organize Your Laundry in 5 Easy Steps

If you've got kids - or maybe even if you don't - you probably spend a lot of time in the laundry room, which is one of the smallest rooms in your home. Having a laundry room that is organized makes one of the most hated chores in the household more enjoyable and easier, and the good news is, it's not that difficult to keep your laundry room organized and efficient.

Throw away and purge first:

Start by going through each cabinet, drawer and surface. Look at each item and ask yourself is it worth keeping? You should also ask yourself if it has expired, is it still usable, and is this item beneficial to the laundry room. As you make these decisions, be sure and put them in their respectable piles - Keep, Distribute around the House, Recycle, Trash. This is an important step that is often overlooked. The laundry room often becomes a catch all for basic items that never make their way to their specific homes. By clearing up this space of excessive and unnecessary items, you will make way for the area's intended purpose: doing the laundry!

Sort Your Like Items Together:

Now that you've gotten rid of the unnecessary items, separate what's left into categories—for example; cleaning products, laundry accessories, baskets, etc. This way you can see what and how much you have.

Storage Spaces:

Utilize any built-in storage space you have. Use overhead cabinets to hold detergents and other cleaning products. Use open bins or baskets to hold items like ironing equipment, hangers, etc. Mount a drying rack to the wall to conserve space. Use small containers like jars to house the coins and other treasures you find in pockets. Keep a trash can handy for any trash you may find in the clothing as well as a place to pitch lint and used dryer sheets.

Use Laundry Sorters:

One of my favorite things in the laundry room is a 3 Bin Laundry Sorter. There are many different designs of laundry sorters that can fit your available space. Having a sorter will alleviate your clothes laying on the floor and will make doing laundry easier because it will already be sorted.

Regularly Straighten and Purge:

Get into the habit of putting items in their proper places on a regular basis. Take a few minutes each time you wash clothes to put items back in their respective places. This small but helpful tip will help you maintain your laundry room's cleanliness and help you to stay more organized.

The main thing is to start, just do it. The longer you take to decide, the longer your laundry room will remain the way it is.

An Organized Bedroom Makes Mornings a Breeze

Seems like when your bedroom is organized, your whole day just starts out better. You may sleep better, you may feel more relaxed, and it may even reduce your stress and anxiety. Another added benefit to keeping your bedroom organized is that you might find you want to spend more alone time with your spouse! Having a room in which to enjoy each other's company without having things in the way may open the door for more enjoyment. Follow these tips on how to keep your bedroom from becoming a catch all. Your life will thank you for it!

Don't Let Trash Clutter up Your Space

This sounds so simple and easy, right? But how many of us just throw receipts, clothing tags, and other scraps of paper on the dresser, night stand, or in a chair—thinking we will pick that up later? A good idea is to have a trash can accessible by the bed or in a corner of the room. By just seeing that trash can, you will be more likely to use it. Put the trash in the can immediately. If you allow it to sit somewhere, more than likely it will become a piece of clutter in your bedroom.

Don't Let Your Clothes Take Over

If the laundry is dirty, place it in the hamper or basket. When the hamper is full, take it to the laundry room and wash the clothes. You may find this helps keep you organized. If the laundry has been done and is clean, hang it up or fold it and put it away immediately. Not only will this help keep your bedroom organized, but it will save you hours of ironing time later.

Make Getting Ready for Work Easier by Keeping an Organized Closet

Clothes all crammed together, shoes piled in a corner, hamper overflowing? That's not a good way to start your day. A neat and organized closet makes getting up and out of the house a lot faster and less stressful for everyone, and no matter what your current closet set up is, chances are you can make it better with just a few simple changes.

You may find that purchasing a closet organizing system is the best way to tame a chaotic closet. They are readily available at most stores, with many to choose from, and can be used to hang clothes, belts, and accessories. By hanging all these things up and keeping them tidy, your items may last longer, not only saving you space and time, but also money.

Avoid the Temptation to Just "Toss it on the Bed"

You might find it is easy to toss things on the bed when in a hurry. The shirt that you wore once and which needs to be hung up, the sweater that got left in the car, your empty winter purse after you moved all your stuff to your summer bag – it adds up. Do that too many times and that pile will grow to epic proportions. Pretty soon, you will have no room to sleep in your own bed.

Keep your bed clear from clutter. Take 30 seconds to hang up that shirt or put the purse in a drawer. Make your bed the most comfy, relaxing, inviting space in the room. You may find that this truly lets you relax and get a better night's rest.

By following these bedroom organization tips, your anxiety levels will lessen, your quality of sleep will improve and you may even find that you now have more time to spend creating precious moments with the ones you love.

An Organized Fridge is the Start of an Organized Kitchen

Did you know that by properly organizing the contents of your refrigerator, you can save both time and money? By holding the door open and staring into the cold abyss, you can cause more loss of cold air. As a result, the refrigerator will consume more energy and have to run longer to keep it cool. Keep your fridge organized, though, and you'll be able to reach in and grab what you need instantly. Not only that, but you will be well on your way to the start of an organized kitchen. Here are some tips to help you out:

Meal Planning

Create a specialized place on the refrigerator for copies of your meal plans. You can simply hang it using a magnet. This will help you to organize the contents of your refrigerator better by reminding you to use up leftovers and also by ensuring you have everything you need on hand when it's time to cook.

Invest in Clear Storage Containers with Lids

It is easier to find the food you are looking for if you can see inside the plastic containers. You don't have to rummage inside the fridge. You don't have to spend a fortune, just purchase some inexpensive plastic containers and use them to store leftover foods.

If your leftovers are often thrown away because you forget to eat them, you might want to even take it a step further and label the leftovers with the date you cooked it and put it in the refrigerator. Also, when putting leftovers away, be sure to rotate the contents of your fridge so older food is in the front, while today's leftovers are in the back. This will help keep spoilage to a minimum.

Place Meat and Poultry in Bowls

Be sure and clean all meat first before placing it in the fridge. Some might contain bacteria that can spread inside the fridge. Get rid of excess blood. You should already cut the meat into the portions that you can use during the week and place in a bowl with a covered lid.

Organize Food by Day of the week

Place the food that you are going to need later that week at the back of the fridge and organize the items you need earlier that week in the areas where you can easily get them.

Place Dairy Items Together

Avoid storing dairy products where you cannot easily find them. These perish easily. It would be a shame to purchase cottage cheese, and then forget that you have it stored in your fridge. Keep cheeses, yogurt, sandwich spreads and milk close to the door of the machine so you can easily see them.

Clean Your Fridge Regularly

Every couple of weeks, go through the fridge and clean it out, throwing out leftovers that were not eaten and wiping down shelves that have had food spilled on them. Wipe off bottle lids that have food dripped on the sides and check the temperature settings frequently.

Stay organized and on your way to a neat kitchen by keeping your refrigerator clean and organized!

Keeping Kids' Rooms Clutter Free

What's the one room in your home where you just want to close the door and not look? For most families with kids, the answer to that is definitely the kids' bedrooms. They are catch-alls for toys, games, clothes, school work, musical instruments, and everything else that kids seem to collect, no matter what their age.

Keeping kids rooms neat and clean might seem like a never-ending battle, but putting a solid organization plan in place can help.

Clothing

Overflowing dresser drawers and jam-packed closets not only contribute to clutter, but they make getting ready for school in the morning a real challenge. Keeping all that clothing organized might seem impossible, but a simple schedule can turn a day-long job into a quick task.

While your kids are younger and growing rapidly, it can help to evaluate each piece of clothing every time you fold laundry. This might mean simply asking yourself if the item still fits. If it does, it goes back in the drawer, if not, donate it. In addition, check for stains, tears, and other damage that can't be hidden or fixed, and toss those items that are no longer wearable.

For older kids, you won't have to do this with each load of laundry, but you should do it at the end of every season. When you put away the summer clothes as you prepare for back to school, look at each item and ask yourself if it will still be wearable in the spring. Make a donation pile for those items that won't be useable. If you can use the items for younger children later, then sort them by size and store in clearly labeled bins, ready to pull out when they're needed.

Toys

If there is one thing kids have more of than clothing, it must be toys. Preventing your home from turning into one big toy box sometimes feels like a full-time job, but it doesn't have to be. You can even get the kids to help keep their stuff picked up, if you make it easy and fun for them.

Pretty baskets or colorful plastic bins make it easy for kids to keep their toys put away, and even help you teach them valuable skills and habits along the way. You can make a nighttime routine of picking up all the toys and putting them in the appropriate basket just before bed. If more than one child shares a room, or if you have a lot of toys (and who doesn't?) you might have different colored containers for each child or for various types of toys. Billy's toys are in the green container, while Randy's are in the blue, for example.

Homework and Other School Supplies

Is there anything worse than scrambling to get ready for school and not being able to find that math homework that's due today? Well if you make it a habit to keep school supplies and homework organized, you'll rarely have to worry about missing the bus.

Start with a designated place where all homework is stored. This might be an "in" basket on a desk, or a small box or basket on a shelf, but the point is, when your child comes home from school, everything he or she brings with him goes there. During homework time, he'll know exactly where to look for the necessary books and papers, and when he leaves for school the next day, he'll know just what he needs to take along.

Here's a critical tip for this system, though: Nothing that is NOT homework can be kept in the homework box, and homework can never be left anyplace else. That way you will always know that whatever is in that spot must go to school, and that if the box is empty, all the homework has been turned in.

Keeping kids organized can seem like an uphill climb, but by setting up some easy-to-follow (and fun) systems and enlisting their help, you'll not only have a much more organized home, but you'll also have far less stress. Plus, you'll be teaching your children how to live a clutter-free life, and that will serve them well over the years.