

More Hints from the Organizing Pros

Purge. Melanie Stokes suggests looking at everything in a room and asking yourself, “Do I love it? Do I use it?” Keep only what you actually need and use, not what you “might need someday”. With clothing, if you haven’t worn something for two seasons, donate or discard it.

Check items such as coupons, medicines, and canned goods every couple of months for expiration dates.

Small plastic containers or baskets are ideal to store pens and pencils, tape, condiment packages, and cosmetics. You’ll eliminate clutter and will be able to quickly find what you need.

In a household with small children, devote a section of the lower cabinets or a couple of drawers to heavy plastic plates and cups, forks and snacks, making them easily accessible to the kids.

Place children’s bathroom toys in a plastic container with a handle and holes for drainage. The toys will stay together and will dry out before the next bath.