

31 ways to declutter YOUR HOME



- 1 Dare to be spare. Ease congestion by sticking to the basics on furniture & arrange so there's a clear, unimpeded traffic flow.
- 2 Prune the pileup. Save only the last two issues of magazines. Tear out articles and keep in a binder you'll refer to later.
- 3 Keep it clean. The top of tables should be 75% clear.
- 4 Easy come, easy go. Corral smaller items on a handled tray that's a cinch to relocate in a company's-coming pinch.
- 5 Control remotes. Group them together in a lidded box or a chic decorative bowl.
- 6 Pare down pillows. A trio in complimentary colors & patterns is your best bet for most sofas.
- 7 Double up. Maximize storage and get extra seating with a hide-stuff-inside ottoman.
- 8 Floor show. One rug per room. Layer a statement rug over carpeting or bare floors.
- 9 Rule of three. Restrict non-book items to a maximum of three per shelf.
- 10 Lighten your library. Be selective. Leave at least 10% of each shelf bare and book free. Have too many books, stack a couple on a table to make a pedestal for a keepsake or picture frame.
- 11 Autofocus. For a cohesive look, display groups of photos in similar frames - match the hues or the materials.
- 12 Toy story. To encourage neatness, keep kids' things in light-weight bins on a low shelf.
- 13 Show them off. Bulky pots and pans can quickly gobble up valuable space. Instead, hang them from s-hooks or from a suspended pot rack.
- 14 Put a lid on it. Get a handle on pots' lids. Mount a rack on the back of a cabinet or pantry door.
- 15 Gather round. Get cooking faster: store utensils in a canister by the stove.
- 16 Purge the plastic. Avoid an overflow of storage containers. Keep just a few of each size.
- 17 De-Junk drawers. Stash only those items used daily, and move the rest to a more out-of-the-way spot.
- 18 Sneak storage. Hire a contractor to turn the empty space behind kick plates and make drawers.
- 19 Paper purge. Subject every piece of paper that comes into your house to the "two F's": if you can't file it or frame it, out it goes.
- 20 Jettison the junk. Toss out junk mail immediately. Set the 10% of important mail in a very visible basket so you'll be motivated to deal with it.
- 21 Cut the catalogs. Visit catalogchoice.org to cancel unsolicited ones; download the free Catalog Spree app for digital versions of those you actually want.
- 22 Flexible filing. Purchase a portable file box so you can transport your home office to any room in the house.
- 23 Shred. Shred items immediately instead of letting them pile up on the floor.
- 24 Keys to remember. Place keys in a front-and-center bowl so you minimize frantic search parties.
- 25 Ready to recycle. Position matching bins for recycling and shredding in the foyer or home office.
- 26 Pencil it in. Make an appointment with yourself once a week to go through papers and mail that has piled up. Set a time and stick to it.
- 27 Shelf help. Add vertical risers to cabinets. Put toiletries in tumblers and cups for a sleek and tidy look.
- 28 Reroute meds. Move these humidity-sensitive products to a cooler-location (out of the bathroom) and gain much needed extra space.
- 29 Sink storage. Maximize your vanity. Use stackable drawers in dead space around the sink.
- 30 Too hot to handle. Melt-proof kitchen canisters can safely hold those still-hot hair appliances and their tangled cords.
- 31 Set timer. Each day, spend 30 minutes straightening up. Do it every day & your house will stay clutter-free.