



# Hints For The Home

## Easy Decluttering Tips

(NAPSA)—Even the cleanest home will look messy if it's not properly organized. Jule Eller, director of trend and style at Lowe's, says there are a few simple ways to declutter your home and make your space look tidy.

Start by assessing each room. Every home and family is different but kitchens, garages and closets tend to get the messiest the fastest.

A kitchen is a gathering place for everyone in the family, so it can become cluttered with everything from back-packs and junk mail to cereal bowls and pizza boxes. Cabinets and pantries can also become cluttered with too many dishes, utensils and spices, but installing a Rev-A-Shelf basket from Lowe's makes it easy to keep things neat.

If you have a garage, you know it's tempting to simply stash away bulky or rarely used items in it, rather than find a space inside your home. But if you make a habit of doing this, you could eventually run out of room to park your car. To avoid that from happening, put a Kobalt cabinet or rail system in your garage to transform it into a functional storage space.

While closets aren't rooms, they can definitely become a cluttered nightmare. Some people think if the door can close, there's still room for storage. Don't let closets get to that point—you'll be a better person for it.

Here are a few additional tips for sprucing up your home while keeping it functional and orderly:

1. Rearrange furniture to maximize the space in each room.

- The sofa in the living room, the bed in the bedroom and the desk in the office demand the majority of space available. Arrange these pieces first.
- Don't place too many pieces of furniture in a small space. A love seat may work better than a full-size sofa depending on the size and shape of the room.
- When creating areas for conversation, keep furniture pieces within eight feet of each other so people can talk comfortably when seated. If possible, keep these pieces facing each other instead of side by side.
- With seating used for reading, remember to incorporate a light, whether it's a floor lamp or an end table with a lamp on it.

2. Create the illusion of space by adding lighting and mirrors.

- Lighting is a key element in opening up a space. If you're lucky enough to have natural light, let it shine in.
- Recessed spot lighting is visually appealing and is perfect for a small space.



**You can save time and trouble when your home is neat as well as clean. A few simple steps and inexpensive items can help.**

- A torchère lamp is great for bouncing light off the ceiling and back down on the room.
  - Skylights and solar tubes are natural alternatives for adding light to a space.
  - Increase the appearance of the size of the room by adding mirrors. They not only reflect images, but also reflect light and color while adding a decorative element to the room.
3. Use storage products to help you get organized.
- If shelving and closet organization kits aren't enough, keep clothes in storage bins. If you have too much, hold a garage sale or donate items to charity. A good rule of thumb is if you haven't worn it in two years, it's time to let it go.
  - Store your utensils in an orderly fashion. Inexpensive baskets and bins work for oddly shaped items or small appliances. Keep stemware, plates and bowls grouped by function, style and shape. This will not only create a uniform look, but save time when meal prep is in full swing.
  - You always have the option to build custom solutions, but sometimes that forces you to choose between style and functionality. If you'd rather not sacrifice one or the other, Lowe's offers a wide variety of products that allow you to have both.

Ultimately, it's important to remember to not bite off more than you can chew. One of the biggest mistakes people make when decluttering is not setting realistic goals on the front end. Come up with a plan before diving in. Look at the room as a whole and then focus on one corner at a time. Once progress is being made, it will motivate you to keep going.

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