

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Maintain A Clean And Organized Home Once And For All

(NAPSA)—Today's busy lifestyles don't allow for much time to keep closets, cabinets and shelves clean and organized. By regularly staying on top of these areas, you'll help ensure a well-maintained home and a family that is healthier and happier. A few simple tips will help you tidy up even the most disorganized areas in your home:

- According to Netscape.com, there are 76 million cases of food-borne illnesses annually and most of those occur from pathogens in the home. Unless you have some sort of high-tech, state-of-the-art, self-cleaning cabinets, you'll have to clean out your shelves—yourself! After removing all contents, wipe surfaces down with a disinfecting cleaner or cleaning wipe. If you have machine-washable shelf liner, take the time to delicately wash it before reinstalling. Allow the shelves and liner to thoroughly dry before restocking.

- Take it upon yourself to tackle one area at a time. Choose one cabinet and figure out how to arrange it best. If you need containers or racks to neatly store items, figure out what will fit in the space and where you can get it. Using stackable storage organizers is a great way to organize the items in your closet. Take the time to label items, stack things neatly and toss anything you don't need. Look to resources to help you figure out organizational configurations and what items to keep where. Good Web site resources include cookingvillage.com, organizedmom.com and ehow.com.



Shelf liner can be a simple way to add protection and personality to otherwise boring shelves.

- After you've determined what goes where, take a second to step back and figure out your style. Do you want to organize your coffee mugs by size or by color? Should you put bowls on one shelf and plates on a different shelf, or should they all go together? Add personal touches to your shelves with patterned and colored shelf liners. Using Duck brand Smooth Top™ Easy Liner® shelf liner (www.duckproducts.com) is a simple way to add protection and personality to otherwise boring shelves. With its grip, cushion, smooth surface and patterns such as gingham or palm trees, it's easy to let your shelves play off of a decorating theme and add a touch of fun to your rooms.

Although cleaning and organizing your closets, cabinets and shelves is a time-consuming and arduous task, taking the time to sort out your living space can help you maintain a fresh and healthier home.