

How to Get Your Home Organised

Get 3 large boxes (you may need more later, but start with 3) and label one to give away items, one to throw away items and one to keep things you aren't sure just yet. You could store these in a garage, shed or under the house and if after 6 –12 months you don't miss anything, give it to charity.

Tidy just one drawer or one cupboard at a time thoroughly – be ruthless! If you haven't used the item in 12 months get rid of it. Only keep what you use, love or need.

Bathroom - Basket under cabinet or sinks to roll towels in; another shelf or 2 in the shower for shower items; an over the bath caddy for bath items; hooks on back of bathroom door; hairbrushes in a nice tin or container; other items could be in small baskets on a shelf.

Laundry - Attach a rail over the tub to drip dry clothes on hangers or to dry small items.

Bedroom - Basket drawers on wheels for extra storage. Measure shelves in cupboards and bedside tables then find containers to fit. Buy the container slightly smaller so that it slides out easily. Label containers and keep all similar things together (cuts down in time looking for things).

Kitchen - Go through all cupboards and put similar items together- all your crockery in one place, cooking items in another, glasses together in another and throw out odd pieces that are broken, don't match anything or you don't use. If you haven't enough storage for utensils, a nice jar on the bench could hold the frequently used ones. Always measure the shelf height, width and depth before buying any containers.

Pantry - Take out cook books so you have more room for food and cooking needs and put them on a shelf near the kitchen or if you have room, on the kitchen bench(if there are only a few nice books).Only keep the recipe books you actually use. Give away others or store them somewhere else.

Your kids need a small laundry type basket (like from Ikea) in their bedrooms to put their laundry in. It will teach them not to leave clothes on the floor or around the house. Another method is to have, for example, dark clothes put straight into the washing machine every day until it is full to run and the light coloured items in a laundry basket. When you run the dark wash, replace it with the laundry basket load. Your family can instantly see what is in the basket and what is in the machine. It saves double handling and sorting dirty clothes.

Reject shops are great for storage containers, also spotlight, Go-Lo and some Hot Dollar shops. It doesn't have to get expensive.

If every item in your house has a place to “live” then you won't have clutter.

Discipline is important if you want a neat home. Have set times to sort through belongings on a regular basis. Put items away after being used.