



# THE ART OF *Decluttering & Organizing*

## SWEET HOME.

The Complete Guide For Cleaning, Decluttering and Organizing Your Home, Room by Room and Simplify Your Life

ELISA RUSSELL



# The Art of Decluttering & Organizing Sweet Home.



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Room by Room and Simplify Your Life*



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# **Chapter One**

# House Cleaning



**H**ome cleaning is an art on its own, and it is very few people manage to master this art by themselves. Most of us need some little tips and tricks to help us get the knack of it. As well all believed that "cleanliness is next to Godliness", keeping your surroundings clean and sterilized is absolutely necessary whether it is your commercial or domestic.

There are many tips that will help you in answering any questions related to house cleaning but there is something that is always missing. There are not two houses alike. Let learn how to prepare your own house cleaning plan so that it completely fits you and your home's requirements. It will perfect if everyone just knew all the right steps, for cleaning their homes.

Learn some strategies to develop your own cleaning strategy for having your residence's condition under control. Let keep all the universal tips aside, it is time you get your personally tailored, how to clean your house.

Keeping a clean house is really important to our health. We are not talking about dusting or vacuuming the carpets, we are talking about keeping your house germ free. Most families regularly clean their whole house, by vacuuming carpets, sanitizing countertops, dusting shelves, and scrubbing showers and toilets.

But these families do not realize that, their homes are still not clean. In fact, they are still harboring dust mites, germs, allergens and other



pollutants. These contaminants lurk in the hidden areas of your home and deep within your carpets and furniture where routine cleaning cannot reach them.

Professional cleaning can eliminate all of the grime in your house, even in tough to reach places. Have your home deep cleaned today to protect your family and your house. Keeping a clean home sounds logical enough, but with the threat posed by so many different types of germs, it is good practice to keep our homes as clean and germ free as possible.

Let look at how we can create a clean and fresh environment, for anyone living under the same roof. When we say germ free we are referring to something that works as a disinfectant or sanitizer. What is the difference between a disinfectant and sanitizer.

Difference between a disinfectant and a sanitizer, they are both regulated by the EPA but a disinfectant kills 100% of the germs while a sanitizer kills 99.9% of germs. Let get liquid clean and disinfect, (get it in the market). Let show the folks which area of the home should receive regular treatment.

## **Let Be Aware of Your House's Cleaning Requirements**

To start with, it all depends on how well you know your house. For how long have you been living there. During this time some cleaning should have taken place. The effort that has been put should be summed up to create a more general idea of how to clean the house. Think of all the things that can be done to either improve the appearance, comfort and functionality of the place.

### **Regular Cleaning And Cleaning Once in few Month**

Regular cleaning, depending on the size of the building, it should be determined whether all the work can be done at once or a cleaning schedule will be needed. With several bedrooms and toilets that are used every day, the picture is not looking pretty good so far. In this case, some regularity should be introduced to your cleaning practices. If little is done on a daily basis the overall cleaning won't seem as much as it would've otherwise. This is why when asking how to clean your house, you should first determine whether you are able to commit to the task.

### **Do Not Underestimate The Importance of Having the Right Cleaning Arsenal**

After the aforementioned two factors are taken into account, every housekeeper should make sure to acquire the needed tools and equipment for being able to cope with the cleaning requirements of the house. In cleaning, there is much more than elbow grease and the good homemaker knows that. In some cases, there is not much to be required but often a mistake is made people underestimate the

importance of acquiring even the little that is required. Have a type or two of cleaning detergents, cloths designed for cleaning, sponges, mops, even a vacuum cleaner.

## House Cleaning Supplies

Managing a household is enough to make some folks crazy. You often have so many things that need to be juggled that you will often feel like a circus clown (except that they are paid and you are not). You have to look after the kids, shop, plan and fix meals, budget the family's income, attend parent teacher's meeting and other events and keep the house clean.

Keeping the house clean may sound simple enough, but it is actually one of the most difficult things to do. Not only do you have to do the actual cleaning, you also have to decide the best cleaning supplies to make cleaning more effective. If you are a young mom or wife and do not have enough experience on this yet, then it is best that you make a house cleaning supplies list.

Once the basic essential are acquire, you can think of what are the speciality cleaners needed for your house. If you have a hardwood or laminate flooring, etc. you should option for some products that are designed for the particular task.

A house cleaning supplies list should be made up of essentials. Forget about the brand for now, we need to work on the actual supplies first. There are different choices of cleaning supplies, and what you choose to have in your house will determine if you are going to be an effective household cleaner.

One of the basics that you would need to have on your house cleaning supplies list is an all purpose cleaner. This product can be used on many surfaces for effective cleaning. Some are specific for porous or non-porous surfaces. They can be specifically made for

walls and counter tops, but they can be effective for floors as well. Just make sure to check if the allpurpose cleaner that you have can be safely used for your type of surfaces. It is important to read the directions. Many glass surfaces around and the universal cleaner is not working? Get a glass cleaning detergent and forget about the problem.

You should always have on hand items to keep the floor clean. You need to have brooms, a vacuum cleaner, and rags to do this task, and you also have to have carpet cleaners to get rid of carpet stains and odor. Remember that your floor is one of the focal points in your house, so you need to make sure that they are always clean. If they are swept or vacuumed regularly, they will last much longer and maintain their beauty. The Bathroom requires specialized cleansers. Get items that disinfect and deodorize for your families safety. Keeping the toilet bowl and the sink and the tub clean and germ-free and bacteria-free are of utmost importance.

Maintaining the house clean is a must, and you need different tools to accomplish this. It is very important that you have waste baskets, trash bin liners and cleaning rags in the house to maintain the cleanliness. If you have wrought iron fixtures or anything that needs to be dusted or polished, you can keep a supply of polish in case you would need to entertain guests unexpectedly or for a seasonal cleaning. Remember to clean safely especially when on a ladder.

## **What Is Essential House Cleaning Supplies**

Cleaning a home is both necessary and mandatory. It is both hygienic and vital for our sense of well being. Without the correct supplies the task of cleaning becomes more difficult. The thought of cleaning an entire home with only your hands and perhaps a bucket of water is unimaginable. Thankfully today we have at our convenience all the supplies we need to clean our homes efficiently and effectively.

In order to collect the house cleaning supplies, it is necessary to figure out what type of cleaning is required in each section of the home. These supplies are also both necessary and mandatory especially if you want to do a good job and provide a healthy and comfortable place to live. Even a simple rag can make cleaning that much easier.

A home needs to be cleaned from top to bottom and this includes walls, windows, ceilings and floors. It also includes bathrooms, toilets and kitchens. In addition we need to consider the soft furnishings such as furniture, carpets and accessories.

### **What are the essentials?**

Apart from cleaning utensils such as rags, mops, brushes, buckets and the like, cleaning essentials also include chemicals. Yet what works on one application will not necessarily work as well on another. For instance a duster will clean off picture frames, but it is useless for cleaning upholstery or carpets.

Certain areas of the home need special attention to remove germs and bacteria: a toilet for instance. However applying the same chemicals to a dusty cupboard makes no sense.

Each section of the home requires its own set of cleaning rules and cleaning supplies. Germs need to be dealt with one way while dust needs to be dealt with in another.

### **The right cleaning supplies**

It makes sense in light of this that different cleaning supplies suit different applications. When you purchase your cleaning supplies it is vital that you keep this principle in mind. It is also vital that you choose your cleaning supplies carefully. The ingredients that make up different cleaning supplies are suited to different applications. If you choose incorrectly you may have to live with the results. Thanks to labelling it is easy to find out what is right and what is not.

Apart from cleaning chemicals it is important that you choose supplies that are reusable and applicable to the task. While mops, buckets and rags are inexpensive and easy to replace, pricier items such as vacuum cleaners or polishers aren't.

As a general rule of thumb a household needs a list of easily attainable supplies such as:

- Household detergents
- Vacuum cleaner, broom and mop
- Buckets, dusters and rags
- Floor and furniture polishes
- Bathroom and kitchen anti bacterial applications

While this basic list will suffice for day to day cleaning, there will be areas or items that require specialized supplies. Essential cleaning supplies are not complicated nor are they overly expensive. However they must be able to effectively provide the means to clean and maintain a home easily and hygienically.



# Organizing House Cleaning Supplies

## Every Day Cleaning Made Easy

To make the task of cleaning a much more pleasant experience and one not so dreaded, I decided to figure out a way to accomplish this task. What I came up with has helped me immensely in my cleaning endeavors and I thought I would pass these ideas on to you. So that you to won't run and bury yourself under the covers on cleaning day!

By keeping cleaning supplies organized and in one carrier makes the project of cleaning faster and more efficient. Use a carrier which has some divided areas in which to place all of the cleaning supplies in. If you have a few more carriers they can be organized and divided even further by rooms:

- Bathroom, which contains all of the everyday cleaning supplies in it. Things such as: mirror cleaner, disinfectant spray, toilet bowl and vanity cleaners along with the cleaning rags.
- One for the living room and bedrooms. Containing: furniture polish, carpet cleaner and deodorizer, vacuum cleaner bags, cleaner for the fronts of the TV and computer screens and dusting rags.
- Kitchen, which holds supplies such as: appliance cleaners, cabinet wash, degreasers, counter top cleaners, floor cleaners and rags.

By having all of this divided into different carry all's it just makes the chore of cleaning much easier and more productive, allowing extra

time for the things you do love to do. You may have a different container for carrying your cleaners from room to room but the main thing is to have the necessary supplies gathered for each room type and organized for ease of operation and cleaning flow.

## **Reasons Why House Cleaning Is So Essential**

A clean home is important for many reasons. It makes a house feel nice and welcoming to walk into when it is clean. It also makes for a healthier environment for those who are living there. But cleaning your home can be very tiring and exhausting. Nobody likes to spend their spare time engaged in such tedious work. Regular cleaning in a house will also make the surfaces and fixtures last longer as they will not get build up of dirt, lime or rust. You can hire a house cleaning company to assist you with your house cleaning. The cleaning ladies will make sure that every corner of your home gets attention as they tackle dust, grime and dirt on your walls, floors and furniture. They will enable you to have a clean house without having to do all the work yourself and make it convenient for you.

The feeling you get when you walk into a clean house is one of peace and comfort. Going home at the end of a long day to a home that is neat and tidy will make it feel like a place of refuge. When your home is cluttered and messy it makes your life feel more chaotic and unorganized. It is important for you mentally as well as physically to have your house cleaned. A company who provides house cleaning can provide this service to you at a fair price and your convenience.

Not only does a clean home provide you with ease and comfort, it is also very important for your health. Buildup of dust will cause dust mites and irritate those who suffer from allergies. Germs, bacteria and allergens living on surfaces can make you sick. You can avoid this by making sure that your house cleaning is done frequently and professionally. Professional cleaners use good cleaning products

that will disinfect and clean your home to a high standard. They will ensure that places such as bathrooms and kitchen where many germs can live will be properly cleaned.

Increasing the longevity of your home and its fixtures and amenities comes from regular cleaning, upkeep and maintenance. Surfaces such as carpets and hard flooring especially need this regular maintenance or they will show wear and tear earlier on and need replacing sooner. Scheduling regular house cleaning and proper maintenance on a home yourself or by professionals, your home will stay in better shape.

Having a clean house is important for the overall longevity of your home as well as your health. House cleaning is a great way to keep your house well maintained and clean.

# Cleaning The Whole House

The whole house is a huge task, especially when we do not do this very often. This list will ensure you do not neglect any nook or cranny during your home clean process.

First of all, you must know that most of the dirt comes from the outside. So you should start the house cleaning by cleaning the outside first:

- There might be some gravel, sand or other little things under the doors, clean it with a long and thin brush which should go between the door and the floor
- Sweep the outdoor areas.
- Clean your door mat by hitting it against a corner of the house, a wall, or a pole. By going that, the dust will go away easily.

Cleaning the outdoor glass on your windows is a tedious task that most of us put off for years between cleanings. However, when done regularly and properly, cleaning your windows can be easy. Here are some tips that can help you maintain your windows.

- Scraping

Over time, dirt, grime, and other deposits can cloud the glass in your home's windows and actually damage the glass. In some cases, paint drops mar the glass' surface. Tree sap can drip onto the glass and harden. Eventually, these deposits become more difficult to remove and start to etch into the glass. When you start your window cleaning routine, you should first go over the windows with a razor

blade to scrape off paint and other residue. This will help you avoid spending time later scrubbing at these hard to remove spots when you wash the windows with a cleaning solution.

- Water Spot Removal

Rain water, sprinklers, and off spray from the garden hose can lead to the formation of water spots on your windows. And the longer you let them sit, the more difficult they become to remove. You can purchase products specifically designed to remove water spots for your windows, or you can mix a solution of water and white vinegar together. Apply the cleaning solution to areas affected by water spots and scrub.

- Clean the Glass

After all hard deposits and water spots have been removed from the windows, it is time to actually wash the windows. When washing outdoor windows, you may want to use your garden hose to spray all excess dirt and grime of the windows and siding of your home. Then, you can use your favorite glass cleaner to get your windows to sparkle. Be sure to use a dry towel on your final wipe down to avoid streaks.

- Apply a Sealant or Protector

The final step of the cleaning process is to apply a glass sealant or protectant to your windows to prevent water spots from reforming on the glass.

So far we are done with the outer part, however, now you have to clean the inside of your home. Here are our tips to do the job by

yourself efficiently: Checklist Your Home to Free Mess, House  
Cleaning Schedule

# **Chapter Two**



# House Cleaning Checklist



**A**re you busy with your career and family and cleaning your house seems impossible? Is your sweet home too messy these days? Sit down to create a house cleaning checklist in other to make your home mess free very quickly. With House cleaning checklists you can focus on what is important and point out the less important things that you can do it later to save your valuable time.

## **Create your checklist for cleaning your own house**

Give a little time to analyze what you require to do around your home every week to clear up the mess. Include every significant task and remove less important task. But initially incorporate all the errands that you can imagine and sort out the list to finalize it. It is advisable to first identify the main types of dirt and clutter in your home and their causes. Try to arrange things and fixtures in such a manner that in a long run least cleaning and maintenance are required.

## **Make several House Cleaning Checklists**

A comprehensive house cleaning list should be made depending on daily and weekly essential errands. As we are aware of the fact we cannot spend same amount of time every day for cleaning our homes, only most important tasks should be done on the busiest day. And errands on comprehensive lists should be followed on spare time as the 'to-do' list of cleaning a house is never ending. Make checklist for cleaning your own house to ensure you set task

for all members of your family. Create checklists for cleaning service providers to estimate of the service cost and the time required for completing the task.

### **Make use of your house cleaning checklist**

Paste house checklist for cleaning your own house in the visible area of your house for instance, the refrigerator door, beside computer monitor or other convenient place where each family member can frequently see it and complete their assigned part. Don't forget to use a chalkboard to keep track and mark the chores done and see how your home started sparkling in a while. While preparing your checklist put all your dusting work at the top of the list and regulate the job of housekeeping systematically.

### **Residential House Cleaning Check List**

Here is a Residential checklist with detailed steps of each area to be cleaned. This list can be used for apartments or house cleaning.

#### **Main Areas**

**BATHROOMS:** are one of the areas which many busy home owners gladly pay to have maintained

**KITCHEN:** Expediously cleaning a kitchen by proceeding in steps is the best way to get this area done.

**DINING ROOMS:** is easiest to start off doing a quick pickup followed with a thorough dusting and vacuuming.

**LIVING ROOMS:** Just dust and polish any furniture including entertainment centers and end tables then vacuum.

**BEDROOMS:** are cleaned by first doing a quick pickup dust and vacuum plus finish with cleaning any stains.

### **Extra Areas**

Window cleaning can be included if they are the newer fold in type which wont take much time.

Entrances always include removing all finger prints from the doors.

Hallways and stairs should include cleaning the walls if needed.

Exits are like entrances and should include cleaning off all finger prints.

Garages should be vacuumed to prevent tracking in any dirt.

Porches and decks just get a good sweeping and dusting if needed.

Sun rooms should be vacuumed and dusted for spider webs.

Laundry and utility rooms should get their trash removed and cleaning off all finger prints.

Extra requests are always happily done if they require little time and effort

### **Advantage of House Cleaning Checklist**

Listing your household task will help you to learn and be aware different house cleaning methods and techniques, and you can sort out the best house cleaning methods for yourself. Preparing the checklist can serves as a reference guide and shows you ways while you work through your chores. Also it helps you to divide up the chores when all the members of the family are participating in it. The

checklist will ensure that you have completed all from the list of chores made.

# **House Cleaning Schedule**

## **Schedule your house cleaning task**

Estimate the time required to execute your house cleaning lists daily as well as weekly as per your convenience. Allocate time for your house cleaning checklist, based on the number of rooms in your house. It is a brilliant plan to assign a day each week for inspecting your house for cleaning purpose.

## **Tips On House Cleaning Schedule**

An efficient house cleaning schedule is the secret of many housewives in maintaining a clean and good looking home. Making a schedule and sticking to it not only results in a cleaner house but it also makes it easier for the one who is cleaning. If you have not started making a schedule for cleaning your house, then it is about time to make one. While you are at it, try to include the other members of your family in the schedule to help you out. After all, you are not the only inhabitant in your house, and they need to do their share to keep the house clean.

When making a house cleaning schedule, you have to find out the amount of time you need to spend on doing a chore. There are two ways to determine this. The first is the size of your family. The bigger your family is, the more time you have to spend cleaning. The second one is your idea of cleanliness. Not everybody has the same idea of cleanliness. If you are finicky about cleaning and want a spotless home, then you have to adjust your timeframe to fit that desired concept of cleanliness.

Once you have identified your concept of cleaning, the next step in making a house cleaning schedule is to get a calendar. Obtain a calendar that is big enough for you to write on or if you have a computer and a printer, you can print out your own schedule. Make sure you leave some space to write on, just in case there are some changes or additions to the schedule. Once you have a calendar, identify your house cleaning chores. You can divide it into daily, weekly, bi-monthly and monthly schedule. For a long-range schedule, don't forget to account for cleaning activities that are quarterly, semi-annual and yearly.

Write down the chores on the calendar as well as the estimated time you need for each task. Since this might be your first crack at creating a house cleaning schedule, the time you wrote down on the calendar may not be accurate. As time goes by, you will be able to make the necessary adjustments because you will be familiar with the routine already and will be able to easily identify how long it takes to complete a task. Eventually you will also be able to adapt the schedule to suite your needs.

When you have a lot of appointments for a particular day, avoid putting too much time into cleaning. You might be too tired to even start the long list of chores, so just put light chores on that specific day. Keep your schedule flexible so you can move it around just in case there are unexpected disruptions. This does not mean you shouldn't stay disciplined. Saving chores for another day will only pile up your house cleaning schedule.

Develop a cleaning plan of attack if you think you have a lot of things to clean. For example: do in the first stage the bedrooms upstairs,

then the bathrooms, then the toilets, etc.

- Tidy the mess in the bedrooms
- Take the opportunity by cleaning the bed linen and the pillowcases
- Listen to music as the house cleaning will be more fun and the time will pass quicker
- Once you have started to clean an area, finish it
- Wear comfortable clothes: do not wear a long top or pants that you will need to keep pulling up
- Select all the products you will use to clean the different areas of the house
- Open your windows during and after the cleaning: it will keep your air fresh and will minimize the smell of the cleaning chemical products
- Begin by doing vacuum cleaning
- Study all the parts in your abode. Look for hotspots and then decide how you would be doing the house cleaning. Here you can make your mind up what apparatus you could do with, what can be redundant or, improved yet, who you can hand over the chore
- Get some help. Rome was not built in a day and we are sure it was not built by a Roman. If there is anyone else in the house living with you, ask him/her to help.
- Gather your cleaning materials. A big misuse of time and interruption when house cleaning is moving here and there, up and down getting a broom or cleaners or whatsoever you

need to comprehend the task you are doing. So before you start in on, make positive that you need.

- Try your best to use natural house cleaners. The cleaning is not just about cleanliness, it is about home safety measures. Using natural cleaning products can protect you and your family against the harmful elements that are mostly present in all the synthetic detergents.
- Get rid of interruption. For example, when you are going to for house cleaning, do yourself an act of kindness and mute the ringer on the phone in the house. Telephone conversation may lead you to put out of your mind the task at hand.
- Take care of the area and use the appropriate products: do not use a tiled floor cleaning solution for a wooden floor
- Clean the window panes with a special solution, a scraper and a duster
- Use an anti calcareous solution for the bath and all the taps in your house. Do the house cleaning regularly as you will have fewer things to do next time



# **Chapter Three**

# Tidy The Mess In The Bedrooms



The follow this simple steps for a clean and tidy room

## De clutter

If you have ever walked into an untidy room and wondered "where do I start first" and end up walking away and shutting the door for another day, then de cluttering is your first step, it is worth this initial effort because in the long run your rooms will take a fraction of the time to keep clean.

First and foremost, you have to segregate items. The dirty laundries must be put in a laundry bin and must be washed immediately. Dispose of the garbage that you can find. Put everything in the right place as of now.

You can also get boxes which can segregate items based on usage such as the ones you will use based on your need. You can have one box for giveaways, one for storage and one for usual use. Try to do this at one room at a time.

## **Prioritise And Motivate**

It is important to take on one room at a time, otherwise the whole task will seem too daunting. Give yourself a little treat for completing work you have earned it.

## Light Cleaning

Once all your rooms are de cluttered and set the boxes aside, in each room. Go back to the first room, so that you can clean the room.

Try to remove the frames that are hanging on the walls so you can wipe them down and clean the wall where it hangs.

As for shelves, always start brushing and wiping from the top level and work your way downwards. Before wiping your items, make sure that your cleaning solution is appropriate for the surface type such as wood, plastic or resin, so you can also extend the life span of your item. Thoroughly wash surfaces and polish as needed. Use an extended feather duster or a broom handle with a cloth tied to the end, to reach up to the ceiling to sweep away the cobwebs. Pay special attention to the corners.

Wash cushion covers and dust down the suite, dust down the dining table and remember to run a damp cloth over the chairs, chair rungs and legs. Thoroughly vacuum or sweep.

Wipe down surfaces (that are now much accessible because everything is tidy)

Take a damp cloth and wipe down window seals, shelves, and ledges and run the cloth along the skirting. Vacuum or sweep the floors.

Put on some music this will help to keep you going and energised, you will soon find yourself dancing and cleaning to the beat. Tell yourself you are only going to spend a designated amount of time in

each room and stick to it, only stay longer if you feel like continuing and remember the next room may only take you 10 minutes in total, keeping this in mind motivates you on.

You will find that the closer you get to finishing, the more you want to keep going. Once you have one room finished, carry on to the next room or take a break, it is important to feel that you are achieving something here, once it feels like a chore, stop.

### **Do not forget the floors**

Try to move the furniture around so you can clean the floor spaces that were occupied before. Sweep out the dirt, vacuum it and clean it with a mop with a cleaning solution. If you have a carpet, before the end of this book you will we lean a simple and easiest techniques to clean your carpect .

## Deep Cleaning

Periodically rooms will need a bit more care and attention so a deep clean may be required. Do not be put off by the workload, just do one room at a time, one day at a time. When you begin to deep clean a room, the easiest way to do it, is to remove one thing at a time to another area.

The other area should have been, cleaned prior to the room you start on. Remove everything from a room and clean each item as you go. When you move the items to the already cleaned room there will be no chance of it getting dirty again.

Only remove the items from a small area if you need to, other wise remove all the items from the entire room. Clean each thing you take out of the room, sort out old things and throw away old unused items as well as broken things. By doing this, you are cutting down on the clutter and giving yourself more room for the needed, good things you wish to keep.

Once you have removed, everything then run a quick check first and list the areas of your house that need these cleaning supplies. From the ceiling down to the carpet, identify the effective cleaning supplies you will need. You will also need to identify your cleaning materials to perfect your cleaning moment.

While you have everything out of the room, you can clean the walls if they need cleaning, you can clean the cobwebs down or whatever you wish to do to the room. The hardest part is really taking everything out of the room and going through it as you are removing

it. Then the rest of the cleaning is simple and you are wall and Baseboards cleaning.

## **Walls And Baseboards Cleaning**

Walls and baseboards might not be exciting to most people, but every now and then you have to clean them. Cleaning walls and baseboards here are some quick and easiest techniques, for you on how you can get this done. Walls in case you have not noticed stained, scuffs and fingerprints, vertical surfaces dust lands on horizontal. If you want to clean your walls, you should clean them maybe once a year.

Cleaning walls is a good idea as it is a vital step before repainting a wall and it can also freshen up a room. The things I will be using for this project, will be a bucket filled with some water, a sponge, dish soap, some builder's plastic drop sheets, a broom and a dustpan, sugar soap, gloves, some blue masking tape and some safety glasses and an old rug.

The first step is to protect the floor with the builder's plastic and any power points in the area, where is going to be cleaning the wall, with the blue masking tape. Next is to run the dust brush attachment of your vacuum over ceilings and walls and wipe your walls down with a tack cloth or cheesecloth. Make sure you have your safety glasses on, to protect dust getting to your eyes.

Doing any wall cleaning, whether it is spot cleaning or the full blown wall cleaning, you always want to test, what you are using, pick an inconspicuous area, like behind that priceless piece of art you have hidden in the back corner, this is important because some paints can not handle being cleaned, their will leave a permanent wet mark on the wall.

Give it quick little wipe, see what will happened the cleaned wall. If the paint still looks bright and there is no water marks left after drying, you are good to go. Fill a bucket with hot water and add about a teaspoon of dish soap.

The next thing to do, is take a sponge mop dip, that in the bucket allow it saturate bring it out, then really and, really well, too much water can ruin your paint finish, then work your way from left to right, do the W pattern when we talk about doing with vacuuming up and down, your wall once that is done, you will want to dry the wall and the easiest way to do this, is to put a microfiber cloth on a flat head mop and repeat the same motions, that you did for the actual wall cleaning, starting from the left working your way to the right.

If you notice any fingerprints, streaks or marks that are on the wall and you do not want to have, to break out the whole mop and do the whole wall cleaning stick, you can spot clean the wall and it is super easy to do. Just take a dampened microfiber cloth and dip the tip into a little bit of baking soda and gently off the stain, follow it up by buffing it dry with a dry cloth that will get rid of the entire residue.

The baking soda provides a tiny bit of abrasion, which should help rub off any marks or stains, now remember you do want to test this, in an inconspicuous area as well, sometimes baking soda or even magic erasers can actually remove paint off the wall, if you have greasy stains on your wall, this is a simple, fix for that grab yourself, a stick of white chalk and scribble over that greasy area, the chalk will help absorb any of that oil, gently wipe it off and then spot clean, that area as we just discussed.



Baseboards are kind of like the old man ear hair of a house, they need to be maintained every now and then, and when they are not maintained, you can certainly tell so, you do not have to do it all the time, but when it starts to become a little bit obvious, pay attention to your baseboards, you want to clean your baseboards, resist all temptation to use a mop and wipe, them up along the baseboards that will have the dust, sticking to the baseboards and leaving this gross sticky streak of dust.

It looks horrible and it is so obvious, that you did the wrong way. So instead get the brush attachment of your vacuum and just quickly brush up, any of the dust along your baseboards, if you want to wipe your baseboards, take a dry microfiber cloth, dust the baseboard with one hand, have a wet microfiber cloth and the other hand give that a quick wipe and that will clean your baseboards.

Therefore, you will not have to worry about this room again until the following year as far as the deep cleaning is concerned. You do not have to work yourself to death when cleaning your home. If you have a little bit of time, remove a small amount of stuff from a room. On the other hand, if you plan to spend all day cleaning then you may be quite tired when you get done. Cleaning is a nasty hard part of maintaining a home.

## **Cleaning Your Windows**

One of the most annoying things that you come across in a home is dirt and streaks on the windows and this can come about from various things but it can be prevented. But it is not always so easy to keep them clean because there is always dirt and dust around.

As with most cleaning done in the home or office you can choose to do it on your own or you can have someone else do it for you. But as with other cleaning it can be expensive to hire someone else to do it for you.

Here are some techniques to help you do the cleaning on your own. Keep in mind that you will have to stick to the advice if you really want to get the most out of the cleaning because it is easy to just skip some of the parts because it is easier to do.

First you will need to get some good cleaning supplies which will help you in the process and which will be effective in cleaning the windows. If you do not want to buy something from the store then you can try to make a solution on your own.

When it comes to cleaning off really dirty windows you might consider doing both in that you can add a little homemade cleaning solution to the store bought cleanser. When you mix everything then you will be ready to take on even tough dirt.

So one of the best tips we can give you is to clean off some of the dirt and dust with a dry cloth before you apply the cleanser in order to avoid spreading it around on the surface. Then you can apply the solution.

Another tip is to use horizontal cleaning strokes when you are cleaning the inner windows. When you are cleaning the outer side then you can use a vertical stroke and these techniques will help you to avoid streaks.

Remember that a good time to clean the windows is in the evening or in the morning. When you wash in the middle of the day it increases the chance of streaks.

With these tips in mind you can get the proper cleaning that you are looking for. After you follow these instructions, you should have the look that you have been going for and you can enjoy your newly clean windows.

### **Clean The Cushioned Items**

Oftentimes people ignore cleaning the cushioned items. You can start off by vacuuming your cushion to remove loose skin, dander and hair. Vacuuming also gets rid of the bedbugs which reside in your upholstery. Do not forget that vacuums nowadays have the upholstery attachment which will prove to be essential in these cases.

Some people prefer to pretreat stained parts of the upholstery while others prefer to soak it down with an upholstery cleaner solution or a mix of gentle dishwashing liquid and water and dabbed with a sponge. Once rinsed, dry it out under the bright sunlight, noon sun light is preferred to have the antibacterial effect on your cushioned items.

## How to Clean a Bathroom

First of all empty the trash and replace the liner, set the used trash bag in the tub spray the countertop, sink fixtures and the entire toilet area and finally the tub and shower, fixtures with properly diluted bathroom cleaner sanitizer. Moving from left to right, now use the Johnny mop plunger to lower the water level in the toilet, to below the water scale line, add one ounce or about two tablespoons of safety foam disinfectant, bowl cleaner to the end of the mop and swab inside, on that dry exposed area leave the toilet,

Brush and moon throw to the toilet with the handle upward, allowing for some dwell time for the safety foam to work, take a dampened microfiber cloth to clean the mirror from top to bottom, zigzagging back and forth after cutting in the edges, use the polishing cloth to remove any excess moisture, flip to a new side of the same microfiber cloth, to clean the countertop left to right.

Then clean the sink clockwise, pausing to polish the fixtures with the microfiber polishing cloth, proceed to the tub and shower and polish and clean the rim of the tub, and the fixtures around the tub and leave these two clogs on the edge of the tub, now move back to the toilet and clean the inside, with the Johnny mop, squeeze out any excess water and return it to its caddy dampen the new microfiber cloth.

Clean the back of the toilet along with the tank and any exposed pipes, change to a fresh side of the same cloth to clean the outside of the toilet bowl, then use a new side of the same cloth to clean the lid and the seat bottom, in the seat top, switch to another side of the

cloth to clean the rim of the toilet and finally the bat hinge area, that is the dirtiest part of the toilet.

Place the cloth on top of a garbage bag, in the tub, take the microfiber dry scrubby do pad on an extension pole and lightly sweep the entire floor, in a figure 8 pattern, lifting up the trash container along your way, plane all the way to the doorframe.

Then come back to the tub elia and remove this dry pad, switch to the microfiber wet pad and he will now damp mop the floor in a figure 8 pattern using an S motion back and forth picking up the wet microfiber cloths and polishing cloths on your way, use the counter or polishing cloth to clean and polish the door handles, inside and out and clean the light switch area, as you exit the room.

## **Clean Black Mould Mold from silicone mastic sealant**

Behind the front door, behind many front doors is the scourge of damp places, the unsightly awful nightmare of black mold but there is an easy way to get rid of it, we going to look at three areas in the same house, suffering from black mold and easy method to remove the mold, using readily available household materials.

Black Mold: Is unsightly and unhealthy and once it has a hold it, is difficult to remove using standard cleaners, mold removal sprays or liquids you are going to need, thick strong household bleach protection of your hands some sheets of toilet paper and some cotton wool balls, you will not want to come into contact with any of the products, that you are using especially the bleach.

Taking note of the warnings on the packages, you take an ordinary household toilet roll and tear off a few sheets and with these sheets, you then form some sausages, made of crumpled toilet paper to lay beside the bleach, that you are going to use in the offending areas. I have used both toilet paper and also cotton wool balls, that can be unraveled in order to make similar sausages and tubes, to go beside the bleach, in use by unraveling a cotton wool ball again, you are making some way, in order to retain the bleach against the mold in the silicon sealant or other area, that you wish to treat.

Wear a protective gloves is very wise and ensured you got the best quality gloves, in order to protect yourself from the bleach, let start with the windowsill, as you can see it is also between the filler, the glass and the frame, it got discolored over the years, so strictly this is

ingrown black mold that you can wipe off but never completely get rid of so I started by trickling thick strong bleach down, the window to meet the top of the seal.

Then took the tissue paper rolled into sausages, placed it along the top and tamped it down with my index finger, to start soaking up the bleach, thus retaining it against the discolored seal, as you can see the tissue paper still has not got much bleach in it, so again add more bleach across the top and started to soak it, from above down below along the length of the seal, that needed the black mold removing

Next go to the corner and I did not think that tissue paper would stand upright, in the vertical so this time use some of the cotton wool, again dribbling bleach down the sealant wetting up the cotton, wall and pressing it into place in an effort to ensure that nobody touched the bleach, put label on the window.

Then move to another difficult area, this is relatively new shower, unit only put up a year ago but the damp was already ensured that black mold has hit the silicon sealants, that was placed there especially in the corner and behind, some of the filler again, the method was to use tissue paper and cotton wool on the hole, the cotton wool were at best when it came to being pressed into place down the edges of the shower, along the shower tray, mold could be seen

This time take a Pyrex jug and put a great deal of the bleach in the bottom, because I was going to soak the cotton wall this time, taking cotton wool ball and plunged it deep into the bleach, at the bottom of the Pyrex jug. I prefer to do this away from the shower because the

shower area was getting very tight, I use my fingers to ensure that the cotton wool was full of bleach.

Back to the shower tray and ensuring, you got very damp cotton wool in this corner, start to lay it along the base, dampening the silicon sealant by being pressed right into the corners as firmly as I could go, to ensure 100% contact with the silicon sealant, using the cotton wool it was very easy to push it into the corner beside of the shower unit, making it nice and damp and pressing it in, it would actually stay there without any slipping at all, it could be slipped down at will.

Start from the top where, there was mold and then fill in towards the bottom, the whole shower where the black mold had developed in the silicon sealant, has now been treated with the cotton wool and tissue paper, all the way around the edge again

Place warning sign on the doors to ensure safety, after 12 hours let look behind our efforts, by start peeling away the toilet paper, to reveal what had happened between the double glazing seal and the double glazing frame.

We real loose black mold and as you can see it, being peeled off the black mold, has completely gone. This 12 hours later possibly even 18 hours later. I undertook these treatments overnight leaving it, as long as I possibly could, before I remove the cotton wall.

12 hours later wearing protective gloves again it was possible to see what an effect it had transformed the silicon and the mold was gone, there is no scraping out, there is no removing sealants just bleach toilet paper and patients.



## **Cleaning Your Shower And Your Basin**

If you, like me are a real hygiene freak you will only truly understand the total sanitation that you desire when you have a clean shower, after all a clean shower helps a clean body.

Just like any other part of the home it is important to clean the shower regularly, just because you clean yourself in it does not mean that it cleans itself.

It is generally best to start at the top and work your way down when cleaning the shower. Cleaning the walls with a product specifically designed for the job is best. If you have any particularly stubborn stains then you can douse these with vinegar and sprinkle a little baking powder on top, leave for 10 – 15 minutes and that stain will wash and wipe away easily. You can use a spare toothbrush to clean in-between any cracks you might have, under the taps etc anywhere that requires it. Do not forget to wash the walls down with warm water afterwards.

Now that you have done the shower walls it is time to wash the shower floor. If you're lucky enough to have a tiled shower floor then feel free to use a tile cleaner on that and then rinse down afterwards. It's a good idea to dry the flooring down with some spare rags, this'll help lift up any excess dirt that may have been trapped and it'll buff the floor clean.

If you already have not had a chance to clean the faucets or any glass that you may have for the shower now is a good time to do so, again it's best to use some vinegar here, I use one part vinegar and three parts water to do this job, it always comes up spotless and

gleaming! Scrubbing any seals and around the base of the faucets and overflow hole. It's a good idea to pour some bleach or drainage solution down the plug hole at this point to clear that away and stop it from getting blocked.

As we have cleaned the shower we may as well clean the basin while we are on the go. A good way to clean the sink is to use our water and vinegar mix to remove any stains and then flush the bowl out with hot water, cleaning the faucets the same way we cleaned the ones on the shower.

It does not take long to clean the shower and sink and once you get into the swing of doing things you can get into a regular habit of doing so, it will make your bathing and personal hygiene experiences a lot more enjoyable because of it.

## **Cleaning Your Hardwood Floors**

If you are like me than you enjoy having hardwood floors running through the busiest regions of your home. With these types of floors you won't have to incessantly concern about someone spilling wine or cheese sauce all over it and causing stains that never want to come out. The only disadvantage is that they should be cleaned on an everyday basis.

There are simple ways that you are able to clean it - but only one good thing will assist to give it a deep clean and allow it to shine like new again. The hardwood steam cleaner is a device that uses steam instead of water to clean the floors without having to scrub them.

It is time to go shopping. Search for a steam cleaner that has the ability to clean the whole area without leaving behind water droplets. The water will damage the wood and cause it to expand or break. The hotter it is able to reach the better it will clean your hardwood floors. If you do not have the ability to afford to purchase one right now than merely rent one.

Now that you have your hands on the right model it is time to clean your floors. Take away all the furniture so that the floors are totally bare. Now fill the unit up with the measure of water that the directions call for. Plug the steam cleaner it and allow it to warm up. This might take up to five minutes.

When it is set up run it slowly over the floors. It is better to start in a corner of the room and work on two s q uare feet at one time. When you have covered the first area with the hardwood steam cleaner,

stop and rub the floor down with a dry towel. There should not be any water - but this will take care of any in case there is.

## **Kids' Room Cleaning**

Getting kids to do their chores is sometimes a challenge, but parents can save themselves a little angst by approaching it with a plan. Teaching them how to clean and organize their rooms and setting a regular schedule for tidying up is half the battle. Providing enough storage and the right incentives is the other half.

### **Teach Them Young**

Start by cleaning the room with your child so that they understand what is expected of them. Give young kids kid-sized tools to clean with, for example, small baskets or pails, sponges cut in half or paper towels.

Small children can be taught to put things away when they are done playing with them and are usually less resistant to the idea than older children. Explain that items are easier to find when they are stored in the same place every time.

With older kids, explain exactly what you mean when you ask them to clean their rooms. What you consider "clean" may differ markedly from your child's perception.

### **Organization**

Install enough shelving at varying heights so that there is space enough for books, awards and other possessions. Install coat hooks at a kid's eye level. A large bulletin or cork board can hold many of the little things kids like to collect such as concert or movie ticket stubs, trading cards or magazine clippings. Loose-leaf binders with plastic inserts can act as scrapbooks or photo books and can be

organized on shelves by colors and labels. Replace small clothing hampers with larger ones roomy enough to catch clothing that usually spills out onto the floor. Most kids love boxes. Help them choose a set of boxes or covered baskets for shoes, hats or personal treasures. Don't forget about under-bed storage boxes as well.

### **Clearing the Clutter**

Kids' interests change frequently. Chances are the toy they are attached to today will be of little interest to them six months from now. If you have toddlers, watch to see which toys and games they play with most frequently and which ones are gathering dust. Remove the unused toys from the room when the child is not there. If they seem to have lost interest, they can probably be given away. Older children can be consulted periodically about which of their possessions can be tossed or given away, such as puzzles with missing pieces or broken toys.

### **Incentives**

Provide incentives for keeping the room tidy. Incentives can take the form of verbal praise, thank you cards or some other reward or privilege that is important to them. As kids get older and are assigned chores with more responsibility, such as doing their own laundry, their rewards can also grow age-appropriately.

## **Ad Hoc Cleaning**

For those harder to clean places and spots do not worry it is easier than you think and worth the effort.

Window Cleaning: mix a solution of 2 cups of water with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of white distilled vinegar. If a commercial window cleaning product has previously been used then there may be a little wax residue left on the surface leaving unsightly streaks. If this happens try adding  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of liquid soap to the vinegar solution and try again.

Grout cleaning: mix together a solution of 2 parts bicarbonate of soda and one part vinegar, mix together in a large bowl, as it will fizz up. Apply the paste to the grout with a toothbrush, leave for 10 minutes and then rinse off with warm water.

Oven Cleaning: spray the bottom of the oven with water, scatter with a sprinkling of bicarbonate of soda and spray with a little more water. Leave overnight. Mop up residue with a kitchen roll and rinse with hot water.

That is it de cluttered and clean. Now all you need to do is maintain that tidiness and the cleaning will be quicker and easier than ever before.

# **Chapter Four**



# Home Organizing



## Organized Home

**P**eople can sometimes get overwhelmed with advice so if you could recommend just three things to maintain an organized home (on an on going basis), what would those be?

Planning, routines and organizational systems are the three keys to an organized home.

**Planning:** Planning goes a long way to keeping your home and family life organized. At the beginning of the week, plan for the week ahead. This could involve making grocery lists, menu planning, consulting the family calendar for activities and making a plan as to how to accomplish everything and fit it all in.

When you have plans in place you are better able to deal with the unexpected. Knowing what you are having for dinner during the week, having all the ingredients on hand for healthy school lunches and making sure everyone gets to their extra curricular activities on time goes a long way to keeping stress at bay and things organized on the home front.

**Routines:** Routines are essential to maintaining an organized home. Efficient morning routines will get everyone up and out on time with a healthy packed lunch, completed homework and anything else they need to take to school.

After school routines that include emptying backpacks, putting permission forms and papers needing to be signed in a particular spot, getting started on homework right away (or right after dinner) and having a good supply of school supplies handy will help prepare for the next day.

Evening routines that include making school lunches, setting the table for breakfast, laying out school clothes and putting completed homework (and related papers and equipment e.g. musical instruments, gym shorts, library books) in backpacks, go a long way to maintaining order in your home despite the busyness of your family life.

Organizational systems: Having a place for everything is a must have in the family home. Everyone needs to have their own place for frequently used items e.g. a place to hang their backpack and a cubby (or bin/hanging organizer) to put items in that need to be returned to school.

Having a snack system in place e.g. a cupboard and or section of the fridge that stores grab and go and or easily prepared foods is ideal for after school snacking as is having a supply of pre-packaged pantry items available to pack in school lunches.

Preparing foods in advance e.g. chopping up extra veggies and labelling and storing in the fridge for those nights when you need to whip up a quick dinner is also a great organizational system to implement.

When it comes to kids rooms organizational systems need to be age appropriate e.g. low shelves and easy to slide out bins for little ones.

Use photos or draw pictures on labels to show young kids where things go.

The ultimate key to keeping an organized home is to tailor your plans, routines and organizational systems to your family's lifestyle and schedules and to make things fun and enjoyable.

One of the things that can make our lives stressful is living in a cluttered home or working on a cluttered office desk that will later send you scrambling for some things that you just can not find. To help you start living a spacious and refreshing abode, start with having a simple plan to home organization and be free yourself from more stress at home.

An organized home is the key to having a well structured and stress free life. Clutter in your house leads to clutter everywhere in your life. You will feels overwhelmed at home which will cause you stress in other areas as well.

Sometimes home organizing is the last thing we want to do at home, until we come across some stressful day of looking for something we just could not find, especially if you have not de cluttered for a while, and especially if you have kids all around. Many of us may take home organizing for granted but once you start and finish the organizing work, or do it is task, that require a lot of effort and time, you will find out how spacious, comfortable and relaxing your house could be, once is organized.

If you are struggling where to start because you seem to see clutter everywhere and you are seeing too many things not in their proper places, you may want to start with these simple home organizing techniques.

Clutter in the home can be a cause of anxiety and it can even add more to everyday stress. If you are determined to get rid of clutter and start living a healthy and relaxed life at home, here are a few home organization techniques that may find useful to start with.

Start with small items and small places. Starting big and not finishing it may add more to your stress and frustration, thus start with small things first. Organize and de-clutter your drawers or your closet first. The joy of seeing a well organized closet or a well organized and clutter free home office table will eventually help motivate yourself further into organizing bigger things and an entire room as well.

Have a plan. Reorganizing and de cluttering your home may need more storage spaces or some other equipment, organizers or tools that you may need to fully organize everything, thus make sure you have planned it out at first. You may be thinking of moving furniture and adding more storage spaces, thus put it in a plan to make everything flow easily and conveniently. Even a simple list can do the trick for your home organization. List the tasks that you need completed and make them your guide on where to start and what to do.

Sort out items. It helps a lot to have big boxes where you can sort out things before reorganizing them. You can then sort things out on whether they are frequently used, occasionally used or if they can be sold or disposed of. One of the home organization tips that you may need to keep in mind is to be open minded on how to let go of the things that you do not need anymore. Keeping unneeded items can only cause more clutter and fill up your storage even more, and for

sure, it is hard to make your home a storage of things that are not anymore needed or used.

Do little organization every day. Doing it a little each day will help you maintain a clutter free home and of course, is a good start in organizing your home. Doing things a little each day will also not eat up a lot of your time and you can always organize while on the go. Return items in their proper places and complete a task every day so that you will not be accumulating clutter as well.

Always try to maintain a clutter free home. Maintaining a well organized home can be a little difficult especially if you have kids but one of the best home organization tips that you can apply to maintain orderliness and organization at home is to provide more storage. Having a place for everything will help a lot in maintaining a clutter free home, let start with bedroom.

## **Organizing Bedroom**

Bedroom clutter often comes from overfilled closets and work brought in the bedroom. One of the home organizing techniques to help you start organizing is to start in small areas in the room. In the case of the bedroom, you can start with the closet.

## **Organize Your Bedroom Closet**

A closet is normally meant for storing items out of sight in a home, the closet might also play a role as part of the overall interior decoration. The closet doors would normally be designed to blend in or enhance the surroundings. Customized closets can also be built to fully utilize free space meant for storage.

The closets can either be a great place to keep stored items organized or simply a great place to hide stuff. If your bedroom closets are more of a catchall than an organized space, and it takes more time than it should to get dressed in the morning, here are some simple solutions to help improve your closet storage space.

### **Master Bedroom**

Let us tackle the master bedroom first. The average master bedroom closet is a shared double sided walk in. Claim your individual space by creating a line down the middle and customizing your side of the closet with shelves, baskets and cubbies. If you hang more clothing than you fold consider adding a second rod.

To make a second rod, use a PVC pipe, a durable chain, and two S hooks. Cut the pipe to the same length as the main rod (or smaller), thread the chain through the pipe, and leave sufficient chain length on either end for hanging. Attach the ends of the chain to the S-hooks and hang the S-hooks on your existing rod.

Once your significant other sees how highly functional your side of the closet is, he or she may be interested in a closet makeover of his own but don't do it yourself unless asked. And never throw out

anything that doesn't belong to you without checking first! Just because you've gotten the okay to reorganize his side of the closet doesn't mean you have permission to toss his ratty old sweater out.

### **Storing More Than Clothes**

If a bedroom closet is used for more than just storing clothes you many want to add a free standing storage unit or organizer to maximize the space. Drawers are ideal for delicates, and socks. Open shelves are perfect for folded sweaters and non clothing items like file organizers of documents and magazines, accessory bins, luggage, purses, footwear etc. Depending on the size and design of your closet, hooks and over the door pocket organizers can be handy.

### **Creative Jewelry Storage**

Looking for a creative way to store your jewelry? If you have room on an interior wall of your closet consider installing a bulletin board and hanging your necklaces on push pins. Earrings can be conveniently organized in ice cube trays and stored in a drawer or stacked on a shelf. Both ideas allow you to locate your desired piece of jewelry at a glance. Organize by color or style of jewelry e.g. gold or silver.

If you are frustrated with two closets that are both small and shallow give them an overhaul by designating specific functions for each. Use one closet for hanging clothes. Add a second rod for skirts or pants. Maximize the space above the upper rod by adding a shelf if there isn't one. Use the shelf for the storage of out of season clothing. In the second closet, install a series of adjustable shelves and use to store folded clothes and bins or baskets containing other



wardrobe essentials. A shoe rack can be added to the bottom of either closet.

### **Small Closets**

Okay, but what do you do if you have a small closet and find it hard to reach the items in the back and on higher shelves? Start by reorganizing the most accessible areas of your closet. Use shoe racks, hanging organizers (for sweaters), wall hooks, and over-the-door pocket units. With the change of each season rotate your frequently used items to the forefront. Store out-of-season and rarely used items on the upper shelves or at the back of the closet.

### **Kid's Closets**

When it comes to organizing kids' closets it's important to think like a child and approach things at their level. Using the second rod idea from above, not only doubles the storage space but allows your child to maintain his or her own closet with ease. If the closet doesn't feature height appropriate shelves, add some adjustable ones along with a variety of bins and baskets for socks, underwear, and accessory items. The floor of your child's closet is also a great place to store his or her clothes hamper.

And, two kids sharing one closet doesn't need to be a recipe for disaster. The key is to divide the space into two sides and use name tags or colors to keep clothing and accessories separate.

### **Shoe Closet**

A shoe closet is a storage place designed for shoes. Shoe closets might be steady to put inside a closet or could be constructed in a

closet organizer. The right kind of closet for shoes depends on the amount of shoes you have to store and where in your house you wish to put shoes.

Lots of individuals who have a huge collection of footwears have built in racks in their closet at their bedroom. Every closet for a footwear might hold a few pairs of shoes. Some footwear shelves are slanted wood boards that have a stripe running over the back so that the footwear are placed for easy selection.

Other kinds of closets are white metal shelves that are a part of a free standing footwear rack or are part of closet shelving. With that type of shelf, you could simply put footwears on the shelves alongside. Some types of racks have wire loops that you put the footwear over.

A shoe closet is a substitute to shoe boxes. Clear shoe boxes that hold a pair of shoes could be placed anywhere and some individuals prefer to utilize these for shoes not regularly worn. Boxes of shoes might be placed up high, while racks are on the floor to have easy access to the shoes.

Shoe closets could be added to the entry way of the closets to prevent the cluttering of sneakers in the hall near the back or front door of a house. Some individuals like to put a tiny rack near doors to store footwears worn and/or the footwears of the guests. While the looped kind of shoe closets could be only utilized to hold shoes, shelves for shoes could be utilized to store anything from gift wrap to toys to pantry supplies. Free standing racks normally fit into any kind of closet and keep things out of sight and organized

## **How to Weed Out Excess Clothing**

Finally, if you are looking for a smart and simple way to weed out excess clothing start fresh each new season or two by switching the direction of your hanger hooks. For instance, once winter is over relocate your spring and summer clothing so it is front and centre but direct your hanger hooks forward so they point into the centre of the closet. Whenever you wear an item and return it to the rod but reposition the hanger the opposite way so it faces toward the wall. By doing this, there is no doubt what clothes are being worn and which ones are just taking up valuable space, it really help.

## **Organizing Living Room**

When I think of a living room, two things come in to my mind instantly: entertainment and guests. Your living room is not only a place for you to relax and enjoy your home with your family but it is also where you welcome your guest, thus it is important to make it organized and clean always. To help you start with it, identify things that are not supposed to be in your living room. Also put away some things that cannot be accommodated in your storage as well. If you have a bookshelf that can fit in a hundred books, you have to trim down your collection up to that number only.

Entertainment is an essential part of every living room because of the television, DVD player, digital set top box or stereo equipment. In majority of homes these devices exist there and we like to entertain ourselves for example by watching television, movies or listening to music. Also, your guests are going to be sitting in your living room couch for the most of the time during their visit, since it's one of the most convenient places (in addition to kitchen) to have a conversation and have a great time. Then there is also education, which may also be part of your living room - at least it is part of mine. I for sure like to read and I have found living room to be one of the best places for that activity.

### **Keep It Simple**

The ideal living room is very simple but functional. Sofas and chairs are located so, that it is easy for guests to discuss with each other and have a good time. Television, DVD player, digital set top box or stereos are located so, that they are easy to reach, use and see.

## **Remove All The Extra Stuff**

I try to keep all the CDs or DVDs away from tables. At some point I had a special rack for their storage, but nowadays they are located in a drawer (in my TV stand). That is the place where I put them after using them as soon as possible.

I like to keep my coffee table clear out of anything extra. I used to have books, reports and magazines there, but I realized, that their place is somewhere else. Put the books to a bookshelf and magazines to a magazine racks. If you have CDs, try to get a CD storage container for easy storage. Naturally you want to make sure, that the CDs are inside their covers first. By that way they do not gather dust and stay in good condition much longer. You might even want to buy a box for CDs which can be then located in a drawer or someplace else out of the sight.

Sometimes old family furniture can be a good thing when it comes organizing your living room. There is a very old coffin in one corner of the room, which acts not only as decoration but also as a storage place for board games.

If you like to read in your living room (as I do) you might want to have a basket for magazines or books that in progress. Put them there after each reading session.

## **Remember Its Purpose**

I try to keep the living room the way it is intended to. This means for example, that if you feel hungry, try to eat in the kitchen instead of living room. Not only does that increase the risk of food clutter but also the chance of leaving your dirty dishes there too.

## **Show The Essentials Only**

It is tempting to keep all the possible family pictures and every other memorable goods visible. Whether it is just the most important prizes you won in your sports hobbies or the cutest pictures of your god children, try to choose ones which means the most to you. This is the way I have organized my living room and If you have kids, you would most likely see a clutter of toys in the living room. One of the home organizing tips to help you solve this is to provide your kids with a big box where they can put their toys after playing. You can also designate a play area where your kids can play.

Plan your furniture according to the size of your living room. Sometimes we tend to bring in furniture that we love even if it eats up all the space in the house. Maintain an ample space in your house that you can move around freely.

## **Kitchen Organizing**

When it comes to kitchen organizing, one of the home organizing tips to keep in mind is to store frequently used items within your easy reach and store items that are rarely used. This will help you have a more spacious kitchen and a clutter free one. Make sure your counter is also free from clutter as flat surfaces often attract clutter.

Start with these simple tips to guide you through your home organization and keep in mind to maintain a clean and organized home as always.

## **Important Of Living Room**

When you sit on a sofa it should make you smile, it should be so comfortable and airy that it swings your mood and makes you feel comfortable and cool. A living room and drawing room is place to relax, sit together, enjoy the snacks and tea and have some discussions over hot topics.

How one defines a living or drawing room is different however, the similarity is that all of them should be able to deliver the comfort and affectionate feeling. While talking about this, we have some interior design "must have" things for the room's setting. Of course a couch and sofa set is important, however setting them and organizing them in a smart style is more important. Even poorly designed furniture looks astounding if organized in an artistic manner.

It is important for us to understand that not only the look of furniture is important but, it's setting and organization is equally important. A Living room must have a comfortable and spacious sofa sets, with back rests. It must a few small tables along the sides of sofas with some ornaments to decorate them. It is often believed that a center table is a law that must not be broken off while setting up the living room. However, there are few things besides the furniture that bring an extra beauty to the room. Victorian framed mirror is one of them, which give a classic look to the room. Carpets are other enhancement elements which bring more color and life to it.

While buying a furniture people often worry about what kind of furniture should they buy. This question can only be answered by them only. You must consider what sort of life you have in your

home, and how do you use your living room. If the living room is to be designed for special times when guests are over and you need more space to sit and talk, it must be organized in a more royal looking form. However, if you consider your living room as an all the time used room, it must have rough and tough furniture that goes through all the toughest things that you could do on it. Especially kids who like jumping and playing all the time, it is great for them to have furniture that supports their activities. It is important to mention here that living rooms are an important part of any house, they describe the styles which people living in that house possess.



## **Kitchen Organization**

Learn how to organize your life with some best kitchen storage ideas

Do you have a huge pile of grocery bags lying around? Here's a creative solution. Keep them organized and easily accessible in a wicker container. Truly an easy kitchen storage solution that will save on precious space, especially if you have a small kitchen.

Save those empty soda boxes. You can use them to organize your canned goods. The Campbell's cans are small enough to fit a pack of 12 - just note that the Del Monte cans are slightly bigger in diameter so all you have to do is cut the top off the pack and it will hold the cans just fine. How's that for a cheap kitchen organization idea.

If you want something a little more elegant, then go for the 3 tier deluxe canned food storage rack. This space saver is stylish and compliments any room decor. Neatly organize your kitchen cabinets and pantry with this kitchen, pantry accessory.

Have cupcake liners? Store them in a mason jar to keep them organized and dust-free! They fit perfectly and they are easy to get to. You can even leave the jar out on the counter for a cute little display.

Did you know magazine holders organize more than magazines?! Behold the ultimate food storage system. Keep your potatoes, onions and other veggies from rolling around. You can also use it to store your spaghetti, or you can use the magazine holder as a plastic wrap box holder. Smart and inexpensive.

Are you familiar with these ridiculous plastic hangers that you get when you buy clothes? Well, now there's a legitimate use for them. Use them to hang bags of chips and other snacks. If that isn't the most genius kitchen hack ever, then I don't know what is

For less than 20 bucks, you can get a snazzy over-the-door pantry organizer. These things are quick and easy to setup. Stash items over-the-door and virtually eliminate search time with this smart kitchen storage solution.

You may already have this in your home, but if you do not, for just a few dollars, you can get a clear over the door shoe organizer and use it to store snacks and other items that do not necessarily need to be kept in their boxes. If boxes take up too much space in your pantry, then this creative kitchen storage idea may be right up your alley.

Recycle plastic bottles for dry food storage. Juice Bottles. 2 liter soda bottles. Even dried parmesan cheese containers. You name it. Repurpose those everyday food containers for long-term storage.

If you have a small kitchen pantry, then you are going to love this space saver idea. Store your snacks in a fishbowl. Easy to grab and go, and they do not take up a lot of space on the shelf. Tip

Use chalkboard labels. They make for stylish organization. The neat thing about them is that they are reusable and you have to admit it is such a beautiful way to become more organized.

If you have a few dollars to spare, then this 2 tier bamboo turntable is just for you. It's perfect for creating extra space in your kitchen

cabinet or closet shelf. Its natural color compliments any decor and it rotates for easy access. You can find this at Amazon or any site.

If you do not have a few bucks to spare right now, then here's a smart alternative to the bamboo turntable, the lazy susan. All you need for this simple DIY hack are 2 baking pans and a few marbles. Place the marbles in one 8 inch pan, then stack the other 8 inch pan on top. Then viola! It spins around nicely and smoothly.

There you have it the brilliant kitchen storage solutions to better organize your life.

## **Ways To Organize All Your Recipes**

First, gather them all up, I know you have them everywhere. So whether it is the little recipe cards that your mom has sent you, something you have pulled from a magazine, and of course I'm sure you have got different emails that have been sent to you and also things you have downloaded from the Internet and also plenty of recipes from your Sunday newspaper.

Gather them all up and then sort them by category. When you sort them by category it is a great time to take a look at them and really determine, am I really going to make this, will my family like it, do I even like it and how difficult is the recipe.

Based on your current lifestyle, is it something you are going to make? Sort them by categories and a great way to look at the different categories is to have a recipe organizer. It would be really easy to take these out and spread them on the table and use them as your dividers as your sorting out your different recipes, I love using a binder.

Another great system is this piece right here which folds closed and when you open it up it stands nicely on your counter top. it does not have to stay out all the time but it makes it real easy to see your recipes. And using a sheet protector is great to make sure you get to keep your recipe for a long time so that it does not get batter on it or whatever that is getting on it.

Also you can take it back a step and create your own recipe binder which is what I have done for my family and I have used the categories that were most common to our situation and I have

purchased sheet protectors and also the great page dividers that have pockets. So these have pockets on both sides it is really easy if you do not have time to really organize your recipe binder as you are pulling new items out of cook books or on line, print it out and just stick it in the pocket and save it for later.

Another tip could be you could keep it in the pocket until you have made it and decided if it is a keeper or not. If it is a keeper then it becomes worthy of a sheet protector. So, just a simple way to gather up all your recipes and have them in one place.

## **Organizing kids rooms**

Can be a major hurdle for parents. It can seem like a constant battle to get kids to clean up after themselves and keep things organized. The good news is, you can simplify the process of organizing kids' rooms, and teach your child valuable life skills in the process. Follow these simple steps for organizing your child's bedroom:

### **Instructions**

Declutter. Get rid of all the broken toys, random game pieces, incomplete puzzles, and other bits of miscellany that inhabit your child's room. Go through clothes and get rid of anything that's too small, worn out, stained, or just doesn't get used.

Store what isn't needed right now. Out-of-season items should be stored in out-of-the way places. Top closet shelves, under the bed, in the coat closet - wherever you put these items, the goal is to keep them out of circulation. The less stuff that's in the way, the more likely you'll be successful in organizing kids' rooms.

Look at things from your child's point of view, and make adjustments accordingly. Invest in a customized kids closet organizer with lower clothing rods, and storage cubes that won't pinch little fingers. Store socks, undies, and shoes in open bins on the floor, and buy or create a toy organizer for your child's room. Label bins and drawers - use pictures and words for kids who are too young to read.

Once you have gotten rid of clutter and have your basic organizational system in place, make sure your child helps to maintain an orderly space. Avoid the impulse to do the all the work

yourself, even if it may seem a bit tedious and time consuming to direct your child in picking up after himself. Remember that the time you spend now teaching your child to stay organized will pay off in the long run.

## **Organizing Laundry Rooms**

Washing and drying clothes is one of the oldest domestic chores. Long before there were vacuum cleaners, dishwashers, stovetops or running water, people still had to do the laundry. Clothing was washed and scrubbed in rivers, lakes and in streams, and then dried in the sun. The process was an all day affair, even after the advent of soap and the washboard. Things are a bit easier today.

Mechanized cleaning devices like the washing machine and the clothes dryer became affordable in America at the end of the twentieth century. But the process still takes time. After collection, sorting, washing, drying and folding, the wash cycle eats up nearly two hours each day. Not to mention the fact that we do more laundry than ever before.

For obvious reasons, wash was typically a weekly chore before the washer and dryer came on the scene. Now it is a daily chore. In fact, it is more than daily. The average family does four hundred loads of wash each year. Though the process will probably never be enjoyable, there are tools and accessories that can at least make it bearable.

### **Laundry Room Organizers**

The laundry room is typically the most cluttered and disorganized room in the home. Part of the problem is that there is seldom enough space. For some strange reason, architects rarely pay much mind to the laundry room, even though it is one of the most popular rooms in the home. As a result, the room is often undersized for the work for which it was designed. This forces many homeowners to hate the



process even more than they normally would. For, not only is the chore unappealing, but the environment is inadequate. Laundry organizers can solve many of these simple storage issues.

## **Hampers**

Before you do the wash, you must obviously collect the dirty clothes. Hampers are one of the most popular home organizers because they can be placed in common areas. Unlike the standard plastic laundry basket, the hamper is typically found outside of the laundry room in hallways and in bedrooms. There are also many different kinds of hampers that perform more than one function. There are flip-top hampers, collapsing hampers, rolling hampers, hanging hampers and more.

Because most families have two parents that work these days, the laundry often gets pushed to the weekend. Doing seven or eight loads of laundry on Saturday and Sunday has become a new American tradition. But what do you do with all the dirty clothes? Some folks just leave them on the laundry room floor, which is not only messy, but also unsanitary. We like the rollout hamper for the laundry room. These capacious hampers are often installed as drawers that simply rollout when needed.

For those that want extra organizational features, we recommend the triple laundry sorter. These hampers have three separate compartments for whites, colors and mixed clothes, which eliminates the need to sort or separate clothing before you do a load of laundry. When used outside of the laundry room, it is often a good idea to place labels on each compartment to let family members know which clothes to deposit in them.

For obvious reasons, hampers that are placed in public area are far more stylish than those that are relegated to the laundry room. The modern hamper is made of attractive materials like canvas, wicker and sea grass. They look just like any other functional piece of contemporary furniture.

### **Laundry Center**

Most homeowners adore devices that perform more than one task. It generally makes their lives a lot easier. The laundry center is probably the most versatile organizer on the market today. Often seen in hotels and motels, it comes equipped with a laundry sorter, a rod for hanging dry cleaning and a top shelf for towels and bedding. Because it takes up a lot of space, the laundry center is best for homes that have large laundry rooms on the first floor. The device may get in the way in smaller rooms, which obviously defeats its purpose.

### **Laundry Caddy**

As small as they often are, many families use the laundry room to store extra food, which means that shelf and cabinet space will be even harder to come by. Laundry room cleaners like bleach, detergents and stain removers often have to be stuffed into any open space or simply left on the floor. One simple and affordable solution to this storage problem is the laundry caddy. This diminutive organizer fits snugly between the washer and the dryer and makes use of previously unused space. Most of the models we reviewed were equipped with three small shelves that were, nonetheless, large enough to hold bottles of bleach, fabric softeners and

detergents. The laundry caddy has tiny casters that allow it to roll out smoothly when needed.

Laundry room organizers are an easy and affordable way to take the stress out of wash day. Find the right tools for your busy routine now.

No matter how large or small your laundry room, there are ways to organize the space to increase its efficiency. If you don't have a laundry room but only a laundry space in your apartment or home, these tips can help you as well.

# **Chapter Five**

# Which Method Is Best For Cleaning Your Carpet



**U**nless your home is constructed completely of bare flooring, it is inevitable that one day your carpets or rugs will need to be cleaned. From rambunctious children to messy pets to guests who just refuse to wipe their feet before entering, carpets take a lot of abuse. But what are the different methods of carpet cleaning? And exactly which method is right for you?

**There are four basic methods of carpet cleaning. These are:**

- Carpet shampooing/Dry Foam
- The dry powder method
- Bonnet cleaning
- Extraction method

## **Carpet Shampooing/Dry Foam**

The concept of carpet shampooing is often misunderstood. In general, the method is not meant to dredge the carpet in water and suds, creating a wet, soggy mess. Instead the goal of the shampoo method is to create a lot of foam in the carpet. Also known as the dry foam method, carpet shampooing utilizes the power of foam to remove dirt and grime from your carpet. After applying the shampoo or foam product to your carpets, you must allow it to dry and then vacuum up the remaining residue. Carpet shampoos attract the soil

and dirt in the carpet which is then pulled from the carpet during the vacuuming process. This method can be quite effective at getting the dirt out and it not as messy as many would think.

A good carpet shampoo generates a lot of foam and is long-lasting. Because strong agitation is required to produce the foam, a good shampoo must have lubricating properties. This will lessen carpet tangles and the possibility of damage. Though this method of carpet cleaning was once very popular, it fell out of favor several years ago due to issues with re-soiling. Remember, the goal of a good carpet shampoo or dry foam is to attract dirt to it. This means any residue left behind will, therefore, continue to do just that. Many found that the clean left behind by using this method did not last and that dirt seemed to reappear at an increased rate.

Another controversy which surrounds this method of carpet cleaning is the addition of optical brighteners in many of the products. These "brighteners" are actually a special dye added to the shampoo formula and only give the illusion that the carpet is cleaner. The effect is temporary and over time these dyes can actually permanently yellow the carpet.

### **The Dry Powder Method**

As the name suggests, the dry powder method relies on dry powder. This is usually a substance such as powdered corncobs mixed with a cleaning agent. This powder is spread evenly over the carpet and then scrubbed into the carpet with a machine. Much like the shampoo/foam method, this powder attracts dirt, allowing the dirty powder to be vacuumed up later. When done correctly, this method of carpet cleaning works just fine. After applying, you must work the

dry powder into the carpet with a counter rotating brush machine or a floor machine with a special swinging brush. After cleaning, the carpets should be thoroughly vacuumed and pile lifted to remove the powder.

The dry powder method has the advantage of having virtually no downtime. This means the carpet is dry and ready for use immediately following the cleaning. This method is great for businesses that are open 24 hours 7 days per week. The dry powder method is also a great for absorbing spots as needed. This method is not for heavy-duty cleaning and if not done properly it can leave a buildup of product on your carpet.

### **Bonnet Cleaning**

Bonnet cleaning is usually performed in commercial buildings. It consists of a cleaning agent mixed with carbonated water. This solution is sprayed over the carpet and then scrubbed using an electric, rotating buffer. This method has the potential of damaging the fibers that most home carpets are made of and is more suited for industrial carpeting.

### **Extraction Method**

Lastly is the extraction method. This method, which is also known as steam cleaning, is the most effective. Using a solution of hot water and detergent, dirt and microbes are easily removed from carpet fibers leaving the carpet looking and smelling like new.

Steam cleaning is the most popular method of carpet cleaning today and is relatively easy to learn. It can be used on almost any carpet type. A good carpet cleaner injects a water-detergent solution into

the carpet pile and then removes it using a powerful vacuum suction. Carpets should never be allowed to stay wet and the minimal water left behind using this method should dry within 6 – 12 hours.

Regardless of the method, keeping a clean carpet can go a long way to maintaining a healthy home. Most people do not think about their carpet until there is a spill or it is visibly dirty. Carpets require our attention well before these things happen, as they are often breeding grounds for dust mites and other allergens. In addition, caring for your carpet appropriately will increase its lifespan, saving you time and money.



## **Do's and Don'ts for Cleaning Your Carpet**

Cleaning the carpet is one thing that homeowners would regularly have to contend with. This task is really tedious and boring and it is why not a lot of people are really excited to do it. Unfortunately, this is one activity that you should never forget to do since it is vital in order for you to preserve the look and feel of your carpet at home.

When doing your carpet cleaning, it is vital that you learn to do it correctly otherwise you run the risk of letting it become filthy and in some instances even cause damage to it. To guide you and the countless newbie carpet owners out there, here are a few of the do's and don'ts that you should practice when doing your carpet cleaning.

### **Do**

**Cleaning the Carpet Several Times a Week:** This is one of the most basic do's that you should always remember when cleaning your carpet. Frequency is a big factor since it will help in keeping the carpet free of dust and dirt while also preserving its look and appearance.

### **Dont Do**

**Only Cleaning the Carpet When it Looks Dirty:** This is one mistake that you should not commit. Some carpets may get dirty very easily but it won't really be that obvious until you seriously look at it from up close. This is why it is vital that you clean your carpet regularly even if it does not look dirty so that you can help keep it clean and in good condition.

### **Do**

**Try Out New Cleaning Products Before Using It on Your Entire Carpet:** A lot of homeowners like to try out new cleaning products for their carpets at home. While this can be good, it is always best to test out new products that you have not used before on your carpet. This is because you may not know it but the product you purchased is not compatible with the carpet you have in your home. That way, you will be sure that the cleaning solution you are about to use is okay and safe to apply on your carpet.

### **Dont Do**

**Using Cleaning Solution Containing Bleach:** Bleach is great for cleaning up stains and spots on your clothing but it may not be a good thing to use on your carpet. This is because bleach is a really strong substance and it could end up causing damage to your carpet fibers instead of cleaning it. That is why it is always recommended that you stay away from cleaning items which contain bleach since this can cause harm instead of good on your carpet.

### **Do**

Not over wet your carpet. Any extended dampness can cause mildew growth and bacteria in the carpet, or bring about a separation of the backing. A carpet that stays wet for longer than one day can cause problems.

If you plan stain resistant treatments, your carpet must be cleaned with products that are formulated for this task. Do not use cleaning or spotting solutions that contain bleaches because they can ruin the color of the carpet.

**Do not use silicone based treatments on your carpet.**

The system called hot water extraction is strongly recommended. It is considered one of the best methods for carpet cleaning. This system is also known as steam cleaning. You spray a mixture of water and detergent into the pile and recover the water and soil with a strong vacuum. This system is perfect for soiled carpets or pet stains

# **Chapter Six**

# Decluttering Your Home



## Decluttering

**B**elow are tested winning techniques for decluttering that will get your home in order as fast as possible. They will help keep your home clean, create lots of space and keep you motivated with a bang.

Some of the tips are little known, at least talked about. For example, one tip suggests a better idea to build a strategy on and one suggests that the traditional 4 box method should be altered.

## Strategies

For every 1 hour of planning a course of action, studies show, you save 3 hours of decluttering, organizing and just plain work! So the first step in our tips for decluttering is to create a strategy. What do you really hope to accomplish? What's the purpose of each room? Where will you put the stuff that belongs in another room?

Whatever declutter 'system' or 'program' you choose, this is how to determine if it'll hold up for more than a month, so to speak:

"Make your projects small and the rewards immediate," says Daniel Hommer, M.D., an expert on motivation and chief of brain imaging at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Immediate rewards excite; delayed results and rewards make it harder to want to start and a lot easier to give up. So pick a program that features quick results and rewards at every step.

Some strategies, though, need only cover a single area. You may need, for instance, only a better laundry system since the laundry room is a disaster but the rest of your home is pretty neat and organized. You may want to install some new shelving, purchase a hamper system or other organizational systems.

The same goes for a single messy closet or a den with too much furniture crammed in it. For a closet, hooks and shelving, clothing sorted according to length all create space and will sort your possessions into a place where you can find them in a flash. For the den, you want over time to purchase furniture that provides storage space within as well as more room and comfort without.

Or on the other hand, you may have a decade or more of piles of stuff that needs to be 'unpiled,' so to speak. This will require you to make a more detailed strategy of your whole area.

The traditional way to attack a project of this size is with a 'keep it, trash it, or sell it or donate it mentality.' Anything you have not used in six months is fodder for the sell, trash or donate piles, excluding of course seasonal items. You and your home will breathe a sigh of relief and the number of your organizing options will explode.

### **Boxes and Temporary Storage?**

The number of boxes you will require really depends on the amount of stuff. Each room may need a set of boxes labeled for trash, for items destined for this or another room, a 'don't know' box for delayed decisions, and boxes for selling or for donating.

But, it is rarely taught that number of boxes actually needed will multiply fast or that you'll have a hard time finding a place to put

them all. The traditional 4 box traditional solution may turn into a score or more boxes with some half- and others completely full and overflowing.

So some of us set aside a whole room or closet or even temporarily rent a storage unit to place the many boxes that don't belong to the room we're organizing. By this approach, room by room your home is returned to you in the way you imagined, while the items that cluttered their true purpose have a place to stay until their turn arrives for their room.

### **Sources of Outside Help**

Once you are all set up you may still feel overwhelmed, so do not be afraid to call in the troops.

Family and friends will often dive in with you and rid you of your problem in half the time. They will also think more about you and your genuine need for space and organization than hanging on to items which you don't need, are too emotionally attached to get rid of, and that are crowding out your joy.

Another super suggestion is to join with a couple of friends who share a common need to declutter their homes. Swap weekends to declutter and arrange your home one week and to do theirs in another. Agree that the owner of the home has the last say!

If you have the money, a professional organizer can make a real difference. He or she will suggest more tips such as sorting mail and important papers in your home office immediately; organizing coat hangers by color, or hanging shoe organizers over closet doors and and more.

## **Danger**

When those boxes sit around for more than a day or two they become a part of the clutter again, we've found. So, immediately stick the donation box in the trunk of your car. Put the sell stuff boxes in the attic or garage until the big yard day sale arrives.

A final note on the selling aspect of decluttering: if it does not sell do not bring it back in the house. Donate or trash any leftover items.



## **DeCluttering Your Room**

The key to getting tidy begins with home organization. Implement these simple tips and ideas into your household routine and let the de-cluttering begin.

### **Make a Checklist**

Before you tackle the mess that was once your room, plan out exactly what it is you want to do. Write a list of goals on how you want your room to look and feel. A checklist helps keep yourself accountable and makes accomplishing each task rewarding. In the checklist, include the time frame you want to give yourself regarding each task. That way, you won't be able to continue putting things off, and you'll get a little work done each day.

### **The Four Box Method**

The four box method tests your ability to use, donate, store and throw away. Label four office-use cardboard boxes as: "Put away," "Donate or sell," "Storage" and "Trash." Take the boxes in the room to be de cluttered and begin putting various items in one of the boxes. Make quick decisions and don't look back. When finished packing the boxes, move them immediately from the clean space. Put the "Donate or sell" bag in your car, throw the "Trash" box outside, put the "Storage" box in the garage or attic and put away in the proper spots -- the items you're keeping.

### **Recycled Organizers**

By now, you should know that every group of objects should have a container to call home. If you don't want to invest in expensive store-bought organizers, improvise with your own household supplies. Convert a wooden dish rack into a craft organizer; use the pegs for spools of yarn or thread. Recycle old shoeboxes and use them to create individual drawer compartments. Clean out old glass jars and re-purpose them as pretty containers for brushes, toothbrushes or makeup.

## **Closet**

If your closet looks like a hurricane hit it, you need an organizational makeover. Start by making your closet look clean and uniform by sticking to just one type of hanger, whether it's wooden or white plastic. Store bulky winter coats and large sweaters in shrink wrap or boxed up with lint balls. Toss or donate all clothes you haven't worn in a year, and realize that you never will. Hammer pretty hooks or nails to the inner closet walls or door and use them to hang scarves, jewelry and hats.

## **Decluttering the Living Room**

Homes can get cluttered so easily. We have the things that we use every day, the things that we use occasionally, and the things that we keep as decoration or mementos. All of these things together can get disorganized making your home look cluttered and unkempt. Use these steps to help find a place for everything in your home.

Use the wall space that you have available. Blank wall space can be used to help you get things under control. You can use shelving, TV brackets, mount speakers and more to free up some space.

Add shelves up high for things that you don't need to use all the time. Higher shelves are easy and inexpensive to hang. Display pictures, collections, decorations and other seldom used items up higher where you don't need to reach them very often.

Add shelving down lower for items that are used often. Simple triangle corner shelves take up such little space, but make great places to put books, remote controls, children's toys, mail baskets and more. You can display your magazines, movies, music or just have a place to put the kids' art supplies.

Utilize an organizer for the foyer or front entryway. You need somewhere to stash your mail, trash, newspaper, cell phones, and keys as soon as you walk in the door. If this is where it goes, this is where it will stay. Don't let it all make its way to your kitchen counter! Use a small table, preferably with a couple of drawers and cabinets underneath. Mail can go in one drawer, while keys and wallets go in the other. Use a charging caddy for all of your electronic needs. Phones, cameras, MP3s and more can neatly charge by the front

door where you can grab them and go. Place a small waste basket or shredder underneath in the cabinet. Here you can stack magazines, store newspaper for recycling, whatever you need.

Make a place for the larger items that come into and leave your house every day. For example, coats, shoes, backpacks, brief cases, purses, umbrellas, you name it. No wonder our foyers, living rooms and kitchen counters take the brunt of it! All of the stuff that your family brings in at the end of the day needs to have a convenient place to go. If it's not easy to use, you won't use it. So, invest a little in some closet shelving for your coat closet and get it organized. Big hooks for backpacks, small shelves for purses and brief cases, racks for shoes, and containers for extras, like keys or change. Use space saving hangers, or slim line hangers, to create even more space in your coat closet.

Once everything has a place, it will most likely stay in its place. If it doesn't, cleaning it up won't be such a daunting task.

## **Decluttering Your Dining Room**

Nowadays we really seem to get into quite a hurry during our day. As we come into the house, it seems as though we like to put stuff on any available large, flat surface. That large, flat surface could be your dining room table.

Maybe now is the time that you could unclutter and organize it. You can do it. Just start at one corner of the table. And then you can move to another part. Whatever you do, make sure you feel good about you and what you're doing as you unclutter and organize your dining room. As you continue reading through this, practical techniques to declutter your dining room.

Perhaps you can make a habit of coming into your home and sitting down on the couch for just a few minutes before you do anything else. Put down anything that you might have in your arms. Instead of putting papers or packages on your dining room table, just put those things on the floor for a minute. After you have rested for a bit, stand up and say out loud, 'In a moment I shall put these things away. I choose to put these things away that I carried in with me today and see how I feel about that.

Next, go to the bathroom mirror. Look yourself in the mirror and say, 'I see myself in the mirror. I now talk to myself and declare that I promise to clean off one-foot square of the dining room table tonight. After that, we'll see. Putting away the things that you brought in with you from work and cleaning off one foot square on the dining room table might be enough for you today. If it is, celebrate. If you

like to do more, by all means do more. But whatever you do, chose to feel good about what you are doing.

If you feel like you like some company while cleaning up a part of your dining room, get on the phone and call a friend. Talking with a friend on the phone while you clean is easy to do especially if you have a headset on your phone.

Next, if you choose, go get the broom or the vacuum cleaner. If you have a tile floor, you can sweep the floor. If you have carpet you can vacuum it. And no matter what you do as you are cleaning the dining room, feel good about you and what you are doing.

You might consider keeping an achievement journal. Notice the feelings you feel as you accomplish cleaning in your dining room. Write in a journal as a happy memory.

## **Decluttering Your Bathroom**

The most hated room in our homes to clean or declutter is the bathroom. Once you have some ideas of what you need to do and a plan, it's really not that hard to do and really shouldn't take that long either. In most homes, just the mere mention of cleaning the bathroom is thought of as the most dreaded chore in any household.

If you have promised or challenged yourself to declutter your home, the bathroom has to be done too. So get to work, do it first and get that task done and mark it off your list as "completed."

Here Are Some Easy Steps to Declutter Your Bathroom:

Clear out the medicine cabinet of all medications. Check expiration dates and properly dispose of any that are old and past their expiration date. Check with your local pharmacy or hospital in your area to see if they have a program in place to accept expired medications for disposal. Health officials have advised that flushing any medications down the toilet is not the proper way of disposing of them. Also be sure to remove any labels from the bottles that have names, addresses and personal information on them and shred them. If you have children in the house, make sure the medications you are keeping have the child proof caps on them.

Clear out any other items from your medicine cabinet. You will be surprised what you will find in there. Sort and decide what you are keeping and what you are disposing of. If it is an over-the-counter medication or ointment check to find out how to properly dispose of it. Take the needed precautions for over-the-counter medications if you have children in the house.

Under the sink, pull out everything and start sorting. If you have duplicates of some things such as shampoo, conditioner, hand lotions, and liquid soap, combine them each into one bottle or container and discard the empty containers. Small plastic tubs or boxes are a great way to contain these items all in one place.

First aid supplies. Go through and make sure you have all of the supplies that are in a basic first aid kit; antiseptic, gauze pads, scissors, adhesive tape, Ace bandage, instant cold pack, latex gloves, Band-Aids, tweezers, and sting and bite treatments. If your first aid kit is missing any of these items make sure to replace them. Keep them all together in one container or buy a first aid kit with the needed items already supplied.

Make up and cosmetics. It is a good idea to go through your make-up and cosmetic supplies at least every 6 months and throw away what you haven't used in that period of time. Mascara especially should be replaced every few months to prevent eye infections.

Perfumes and colognes. They do have a shelf life of 3 to 5 years if stored properly and should be thrown if you notice a different scent. Although perfumes and colognes do not "spoil" the older they are the scent and color will change.

Bed linens and towels. Sort through all of your sheets and pillow cases, bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths. Match all of your sheets and pillow cases together and get rid of the ones that are not a matching set. Do the same with your towels and washcloths. You may not have matches or sets of these but go through and check for wear and tear and holes and toss them out. If any of the items are still in good condition, donate them to a shelter or thrift shop.



Hair accessories. If you haven't been able to resist buying every new hair tie, clips, bows, bands or even hair dryers or curling irons, then you need to get control of the situation. Decide which of the items you use the most and which ones you have never used or probably never will use and toss them out. Again if they are usable and in good condition, donate them.

Now that you have gone through everything, sorted and decided on what to keep or toss out or donate, it's time to put everything back neatly in place and treat yourself for all of your hard work. You now have an organized bathroom. It will be much easier to keep it that way with just a few extra minutes every day.

## **Decluttering Your Kitchen**

Does not it get tiring not being able to find important cooking tools in the kitchen when you need it at a critical point in your preparation? Perhaps you find yourself having to throw away expired food because it is been hidden from view for a while? Having a cluttered and disorganized kitchen can take the joy out of spending time there. For many homes, the kitchen is the first room that welcomes you into the home and most of our family time is spent doing any number of tasks, not just cooking. If you are finding it increasingly more difficult to function normally in your kitchen maybe you should take some time to get clutter free. That way you can use it to its fullest capacity. The info below will give you some quick ways to gain more satisfaction out of your kitchen.

Modern families really live in their kitchens, the most used and most vital room in the house.

### **Which of these things happen in your kitchen?**

- Cooking
- Eating
- Watching TV
- Working on the computer
- Making and receiving phone calls
- Maintaining a calendar of family members' events and schedules.
- Dealing with incoming groceries and mail.

- Collecting recycling and garbage to go out.
- Organizing paperwork and files for a home office or small business.

The fact that the kitchen is used for so many different activities means that every square inch of the room is prime real estate, from the countertops to the cabinets to the pantry shelves to the garbage can and recycling bins. Decluttering your kitchen requires an extra dose of ruthlessness. Nothing should be kept in the kitchen that isn't regularly used there.

### **How to Get Your Kitchen Organized**

If there is no room to work on your kitchen counters. If your drawers are full of outdated food, unused linens, dishes, appliances, and other things you have not touched in years, get ready to make over your kitchen into a space you will love working and playing in.

Kitchens are likely to have clutter "hot zones," spots where a mess builds up over and over again, even though you clean it up over and over. Newly arriving mail and the papers children bring home from school are big contributors to clutter hot zones.

Check these spots often, Once a week, go through the hot spots. Throw away any trash you find, recycle old papers, and put away things that don't belong there. It only takes five or ten minutes a week to keep your clutter hot spots from growing into an impossible mess.

### **Ideas for Organizing Kitchen Drawers and Cabinets**

Funny, is not it, how plastic storage lids, grocery bags, and coffee mugs seem to breed in your kitchen cabinets? Go through these items once a year and sort through them to get rid of the ones you do not use:

Plastic storage containers and lids.

Water bottles, plastic beverage containers, and glass jars.

Tea and coffee cups.

How much do you really use specialized utensils like electric wine bottle openers, electric carving knives, or citrus juicers?

Small electric appliances such as coffee grinders or mini-food processors.

Wedding presents, gifts, and things you inherited.

Things to let go of include chipped or broken china, mismatched cutlery, leftovers from old dishware sets, ugly things you've never liked (including wedding gifts), and anything you don't use regularly or like a lot.

Dry and canned food and spices should also be checked for freshness and thrown away if they are past their expiration date.

To decide how to dispose of the things you weed out, see my article on deciding when to sell unwanted items and when to give them away.

## **Solutions For Kitchen Storage**

### **Put Things You Use Often in the Easy To Reach Zone**

Keep anything you use frequently in a place that doesn't require you to bend down low or reach up high to get it out. Keeping them in

this zone makes them easier to get out and put away. Use the zones up above and down below the middle area for things you don't use as often.

Your kitchen counters are the most valuable space of all. Keep them for things you use every day. It makes sense to keep your coffee machine on the counter if you make coffee every morning. If you only use the food processor once a month, put it in a cabinet so you can use the counters for your daily activities. It's important to keep room on your counters for the daily jobs involved in cooking and cleaning up after meals.

### **Store Things Close to the Point of Use**

Look around your kitchen and make a mental sketch of where you eat, cook, and clean up. Are the things you use to do these everyday jobs located where you can get to them in a step or two? Do you have to walk from one end of the kitchen to the other to get the things you need to your work areas?

If you have not already done this, you can save yourself a lot of steps by moving kitchen tools and supplies as close as possible to the spots where you use them. Here's how to store many commonly used tools and supplies:

#### **What to Keep Near the Stove**

Pots and pans. If you cook often, consider hanging them on the walls or ceiling.

Cooking utensils such as spatulas or wooden spoons. Stand these up in a holder on the counter top, so you can just reach in and grab

the one you want. You can buy these at kitchen stores or use a wine cooler or low vase with a wide mouth.

Spices. Store these in a shallow drawer, if possible. Keep them in their original boxes. (Never waste time and effort transferring spices out of their original containers.) A spice drawer allows you to see all the spice labels at a glance and quickly find the one you're looking for. One of the worst places to store spices is right above the stove, where they get overheated and quickly lose their freshness.

#### What to Keep Between Dishwasher and Dining Table

China, glasses, silverware, and utensils should be kept between the table (where they are used) and the sink and dishwasher area (where they get cleaned.) Mugs and tea cups should be kept near the tea kettle or coffee maker.

It is also helpful to keep dry cereal near the dining table so people can eat breakfast or snack without interfering with someone cooking in the kitchen.

#### What to Keep In the Stove-Sink-Refrigerator Work Triangle

Canned and dried foods. Keep these in cabinets or drawers as close as possible to the food preparation area. If you have more than one of the same types of can or container, store them right behind each other so the one in front is the same as all the ones behind it. If your kitchen cabinets are so deep you can't see what's in the back, put an empty box at the back of the cabinet to prevent things from sliding back out of sight.

Cutting boards, cookie sheets, cake pans, or cooling racks. These take up less space if you stand them up on their sides and store

them vertically in a kitchen storage cabinet. If you have a narrow cabinet, that's best. You can also buy "bookedn" inserts for bigger cabinets. You screw them into the bottom shelf to make vertical storage for items like these. Remove a shelf if necessary to create a vertical storage spot.

Small electric appliances and flour and sugar holders. If your counter space is limited, store them in lower cupboards and lift them to the countertop only when you need them.

Cups and mugs. Store these near where you use them -- probably the kettle or coffee machine.

Compost pail. If you are able to compost or your garbage company collects green waste, composting dramatically cuts down on your garbage and disposer use.

### Kitchen Storage Ideas for Small Children

Set aside a cupboard or drawer for your children. Store unbreakable plates, cups, and utensils for small children in a lower drawer so they can get things out for themselves. Small children also love having a play cupboard with wooden spoons and pots and pans they can play with while you cook or clean up.

Lock up dangerous or valuable items. Be sure to put child proof locks on kitchen cabinets with anything poisonous or breakable in them

# **Chapter Seven**



# Home Deorations



## Strategic Decorating Of Your Home

**W**hen you start a decorating task, you have to look at it like a general planning a battle. You can not just jump into the fray, throwing furnishings left and right in a mad tizzy. That will quickly result in chaos. Instead, you should start out with a battle plan that will guide you through the decorating process. Have an idea of what the room needs to be, and lay out a strategy for getting it there in the most effective way possible.

This does not mean that you have to pre plan every move that you make. It also does not mean that there is no room for improvisation. You are ultimately in charge, not the plan. A strategy is just important because it keeps you a little bit grounded, and by doing so, allows you to stretch as far as you want creatively.

A good decorating strategy will consist of a few simple points. You need to understand the basic purpose of the space you are designing, is it a place for lots of people, or somewhere designed to suit the needs of just one or two? Once you understand a spaces purpose, all of your decorative decisions can be made to help further the room's needs.

Next you should have a very rough idea of the layout of the space. Things like the position of couches, cabinets, and tables are going to be one of the first things you have to worry about anyways, so you might as well decide from the start where you want everything. Again this is only an initial plan, and can be rethought at any time.

While you do not have to completely choose all of your colors before you start decorating a space, it does help in matching tones to know

the basic color and or pattern structure of the room. One great trick for easily coordinating colors is to have one item in the space with a pattern that you really like. The different colors that make up that pattern are all representative of colors which will easily match with one another. In this way the rooms' centerpiece can also be its palette guide.

The only other thing you may want to pre plan is if you want to use some sort theme to tie the space, or even the whole house together. Themes can consist of styles, patterns, colors, or even more overt things such as a time period. If you are going to use a theme, you will have to plan that out ahead of time, as each piece that you place into the space will have to be somehow connected to that theme.

While it is not necessary to plan out every move you make when decorating a space, however having some sort of basic plan can be extremely useful. If nothing else it will get you thinking theoretically about the decorative nature of the room before you start. The more you think your moves through, the more detailed and attractive you can make the space.

Create a thematic consistency. Choosing different themes for each room is fine, but you need the themes to at least flow together to a certain degree. This does not mean every room has to be the same color or match exactly. Consistency means carrying a part of each room into another. One great way to ensure consistency is to choose an overall theme and then break it down into various smaller themes. For instance, if you choose a modern overall theme for your home, you will want to select furnishings for each room that are also

modern. You wouldn't want to furnish one room with anti q ues and another with futuristic pieces.

If you are shopping for decorations and you absolutely love a particular item, buy it! This does not mean that you should become a spend thrift. It means that if you are shopping and you see an interesting, uni q ue item that you really like but are still unsure where it might fit in your home, go ahead and get it. You will eventually find a place for it, and you would be extremely disappointed if you lose out on the opportunity to buy it by not acting.

Search for inspiration in things outside of the home that you love. If your hobby is hiking, observe the colors and textures you encounter while you are out hiking. Incorporate the things from your favorite activity into your home decorating.

Keep an inspiration folder. Browse the internet, magazines, and books, and make copies of interesting pages, jotting down notes of things you like about rooms that you see. Put them all into a folder and when you get stuck or need inspiration, go through the folder to find ideas. You may find things you forgot about, and seeing something again may spark creative inspiration.

Take your time and have fun. Do not try to rush your home decorating. I know you want to reach the finish line, but if you do not take your time, you will not be happy with the final results. Be realistic with a time line and don't give up or get upset if it takes a while.

Overall, just remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint. Don't take decorating too seriously! It is an adventure, and ultimately your space should reflect you and the things you like. I hope these five

tips have been helpful to you as you create a beautiful space for yourself while having a great time doing it

## **Large Scale Strategy**

The large scale strategy that you use to decorate your home is of course the backbone of your decorating strategy. This involves the use of colors, light, and texture in the major components of the space, such as the walls, the floors, and the major furnishings. However, even if you work as hard as you can to make your home look attractive and coordinated, you might still be sabotaged by the smallest items in the space; the details.

The way a human's mind works is like a difference engine. When they enter a space the main part of their brain registers the overall scene, meanwhile the discerning part of their brain notices any discrepancies, and compares them to the way they believe the room should look. In other words, when someone enters your home, they look at the big picture with their main brain, but use their background thought processes to pick out any details, anything that you might have missed or any small point that might be a mistake.

These details can include almost anything. Magazines left out after reading them, clutter stuffed in a corner, even a pair of keys left out on a coffee table. These are all lose ends that will stand out, screaming at your company, and making it impossible to admire the overall arc of your decorative work.

Because of this, you should approach each and every room in your home as if you were a stranger, entering it for the first time. Be critical of your work. Look in every corner, every nook, and every

cranny. Compare the reality you see with your eyes, to the perfection you see in your mind.

Getting help with this process can be invaluable. A fresh set of eyes will pick up on the details that your own eyes have long since learned to ignore. Just explain that you are looking for them to be critical, not necessarily as far as taste, but as far as tidiness, order, and continuity.

By looking at your home through the magnifying glass of discernment, you can go a long way towards perfecting the vision that you are striving to create. You do not want to leave annoying details behind that will invalidate the greater overall work that you have already done.

## **Accessories For Decorating Your Rooms**

When you want to embellish your rooms and put some finishing touches in your home, you need to accessorize how you will a fancy dress. A dull room will come to life when you use a few carefully chosen accessories. You can accessorize an area in so many ways, including tablescapes, paintings, pillows and throws, decorated mantles or shelves, and even area rugs.

### **Using Wall Art to Accessorize**

You should not be limited to believing that wall art consists only of posters, prints, and paintings these days - now you can let that imagination of yours go wild and hang anything on your wall that you want to. Architectural elements and plates make wonderful wall art. For the more laid back, fun and eclectic look, consider road signs, boat oars, or a pair of skis who knows, there is a chance you are choosing a lodge look and feel. If you wish to use an item that cannot be hung on your wall, like figurines or pottery, you can still make use of them in groupings on wall shelves. You can use one shelf alone, or stack several to look like a book case.

When you are utilizing a number of mixed items like pottery, prints, and some plates, try to use them in a symmetrical arrangement since this lets each piece get noticed on its own merit.

Certainly, you can hang photographs in striking unique picture frames to provide your living area the classic, warm feel and include some personality for your decor.

Collections of prints also produce great wall art. Here are some examples of wall art:

A grouping of contemporary prints all in brilliant orange picture frames (or any other color that complements the room), with this color being discovered in a few other accessories, helping to make the viewer wonder if the color scheme of the room was inspired by the frames or was it vice versa?

Mimic the horizontal lines of your relatively tall headboard using a trio of colorful paintings which can be hung side by side in a straight line across the headboard.

Stack a collection of prints vertically on a wall to draw a persons vision upward, particularly when your room has a grand and soaring high ceiling. You can make the architectural highlights of prints really get noticed by framing them in dark wood or black picture frames.

Mixing different materials is okay, as long as the subject matter offers the necessary continuity within a grouping - such as a grouping that includes a couple of gold framed black and white prints on a wall just over a table and black and white pictures in frames on the table that range from gold to contemporary acrylic. The continuity of this grouping originates from the point that the pictures and prints all are black and white.

Sometimes all that you need to create a massive difference within a room is but one piece, for instance placing on your wall a sizable architectural piece if the remainder of the area has all smooth surfaces and simple, clean lines.

### Making Tablescapes



If you desire to design an arrangement for any flat surface, then make certain that the number of items used isn't going to overwhelm the area that you have available. A relatively large variety of family photographs probably won't look great on a small end table, but they might look wonderful on the top of a grand piano. Once you see how much space is available, pare down what you want to show off to an odd number; it can help encourage the eye to advance from item to item rather than concentrate on only one section of a display.

Place your tallest object at the back, set in just a little bit from one side or the other. Working your way forward, place the items in decreasing size order, using the smallest piece right in front. Make certain that the heights do go up and down (from side to side and front to back) to get a balanced look. If too many of your items are about a similar height, it is possible to use old (antique) books to put them atop and make height. Do not crowd the pieces together, as you would like each piece to seem as though it's got a little space.

To insure that you can keep your pleasant tablescape when it is time for you to clean, take a picture of your arrangement and keep it somewhere close-by, so that if you need to move your arrangement to dust they may be put back in their proper design.

So, utilize these strategies and techniques for accessorizing your rooms, and you should love the end results.

## How to Decorate a Living Room

The living room has changed over the years, transitioning from being a more formal entertainment space to being the primary living and entertainment space instead. This dual role creates some interesting design challenges, as well as some exciting possibilities.

Where formal living rooms looked more like museum settings that should have a velvet rope across the entrance, today's living rooms can be vibrant, homey spaces that not only make guests feel welcomed, but serve your day-to-day needs as well.

You do not have to be a professional interior designer to decorate your living room. All it takes are some basic design principles and some tricks of the trade to turn your living room into a homey place that looks and feels fabulous.

As always, it is best to start with an empty space. Before you make a single design decision, you have to get rid of all your preconceptions. Even if you have a favorite chair or work of art, you cannot make it off limits as it will influence all your decisions. Start with a blank canvas and you will find it far easier to decorate your living room.

The first thing you will want to do is decide on a general style for the room. It can be traditional, contemporary, retro, modern, shabby chic there is any number of directions you can go. There is no right or wrong here, except that it should reflect your tastes. Ultimately, you are not decorating the living room with others in mind. You are decorating it for you, since you are the one living in it all the time.

Paint is by far the cheapest and easiest way to give your living room an entirely new look. Best of all, if you do not like the color, you can

always change it down the road. For less than \$50 you can rejuvenate a tired room with a few coats of paint.

Thanks to the new mixing technologies, you can match just about any color you can imagine. If you do have a piece of furniture that you just love and which will serve as the focal point of the room, you can take one of the pillows with you to the paint store and pull off the perfect complementary color from it. The same is true for works of art, your grandmother's quilt - anything that has a color that you want to use to set the tone of the room. Remember, you do not need to paint an entire room the same color. You can use a bold color on a single wall to really make the whole room pop. The other walls can stay white.

If you have a smaller living room, you can open it up using a darker color with contrasting molding. Or add mirrors to create the impression that the space is larger than it really is. Mirrors can also reflect the light from a window, making the room feel sunnier and brighter than it would be otherwise.

Another way to add drama to the walls is to add art. Thanks to the Internet, it's easier than ever to purchase your favorites online. You may also find a real treasure at an estate sale or gallery. The goal is to find one major piece of art so it dominates the space and sets the tone for the furniture and other decorative items.

Bringing the outdoors inside is another good strategy when decorating a living room. Flowers and plants can make a room feel more natural and organic. They can also help purify the air without the need to add artificial fresheners. If you're not sure what will work in the room, ask someone at your local garden store. They should be

able to help you pick a plant or flower that will grow well in the space you have in mind.

While many people have shades in their homes these days, give drapes a second look. Just as having the right frame on a painting can make the work pop visually, the right window treatment can make a window with a nice view become a real focal point and create a bridge between indoor and outdoors spaces.

Lighting is another easy way to update the look of your room. If you have overhead lighting you may want to not use it and use lamps instead. Track lighting can add emphasis to art or focal points in the room. Be sure to place lamps around the room so that they support their uses. For example, you want to put a good reading light next to a chair that you like to read in.

If you've just moved to the location, remember that you don't have to do everything at once. Let the room speak to you in terms of design. It's easy to make mistakes by forcing a design solution that may not match the room's personality. For example, a contemporary loft in the city may not look right if you add traditional furniture to it - you may need to go with contemporary or modern furnishings to make the room feel right. Conversely, if you have an old Victorian, modern furniture can look totally out of place.

Finally, remember that you do not have to do everything at once. You can start with an overarching theme to determine the style, then move on to painting a single wall or finding that one defining piece of art or furniture to build around. From there you can build slowly until you have a living room that you love to be in.

Living rooms aren't the showrooms of old anymore. Instead of looking like a stuffy museum exhibit, a successful decorating job will make your living room the favorite room in your house. Put the velvet ropes away and enjoy a room that is comfortable, cohesive and uniquely yours.

## How To Decorate Your Bedroom

Having a beautiful home can enhance a person's mood and make him or her feel happy. Living in beautiful surroundings can make you feel relaxed and cheerful. The surroundings can have a lot of effect on a person. There are many ways to decorate your home and make it attractive. A beautiful house is attractive to others and will make you feel good as well. Home is the place where we come to relax after a long day at work, so our home should be cozy and comfortable. Right from the kitchen to the bedroom, we should try to make every place in our house as comfortable as possible.

A great bedroom allows you to rest and relax in comfort. A good bedroom will help you to have a peaceful sleep. As you lie on your bed and drift off to sleep, the bedroom should be so comfortable that nothing should disturb you. Those wanting to give a makeover to an old bedroom can start by changing the appearance of the room. Buy some exciting and colorful bedsheets with interesting designs to make your room more attractive. Paint your room with some pastel shades to give a calm and relaxing effect. Buy pillows of different colors and designs and pile them on using the mix and match method. Match different patterns together. You can combine floral designs with geometrics and so on. Arrange the pillows in such a way that the colors also match well with each other. Buying the same colored pillows can give a boring and uninteresting look. Buy bedsheets made from soft and smooth materials to help you relax and sleep well. Bedsheets are an important factor which can make you sleep or break your sleep. They should provide warmth and comfort. Nowadays there are bedsheets of different patterns and

designs available. Depending on the person using the bedroom, bedsheets can be selected accordingly. Kids like a bedsheet with animated or cartoon characters. Kid's bedrooms should be decorated keeping in mind the age of the child also. Always ensure that your bedsheets are clean and changed regularly.

Beautiful furniture can also make your room appear attractive. Choose sturdy and strong furniture for your house which is long lasting. Too much furniture can make your room look cluttered as well, so avoid keeping too much furniture. Keep furniture in your room and at the same time, make your room appear spacious. Bedding material should be so soft and comfortable that you just love to lie on your bed. Try to make your home so beautiful, cozy and attractive that you just love to spend time there and you look forward to coming home.

## How To Decorate Dining Room

Spending long hours in the living room watching television together was what most families would do when television was new. The most favorite place for the families to join together and communicate became the dining room and this change was brought by the technological progress. It became important for the dining room to support a comfortable feeling.

Decorating the dining room can become difficult however if it's on a budget. Regardless of this fact you can leave your worries aside. Efficiency in planning and cost reduction strategies help you in finding a decor for your home that is suitable for this room.

First thing to decide is the type of style you're pursuing. Having your dining room and kitchen both in the same area allows for a more productive Tuscan or country approach. A minimalist approach on the other hand can bring a feeling of space and it's common for the home decors of Asia. If however both rooms are separate you are presented with the choice of random themes.

What is the first thing that you wish people to see when entering your dining room? Is it the light of the room or you just want to focus on the table? Can it be the portrait of your family? The frame type is going to be of no less importance than the picture itself. Certain stores for hobby decor like Hobby Lobby or Michael's can be acquired at fair prices.

The dining room's paint deserves also to be considered. Should you choose a single color only, an accent basic color or a faux finish? The nearby hardware may offer paints that are pre-mixed and on



current promotional prices. This allows you to buy at a cost friendly price.

An aspect that proves to be important for your project of beautification is choosing between home decors. Constrained by a budget you may turn to decors for your home that are made by hand and with materials obtained from places where you can bargain for the price and also nearby craft stores. Your dining room flowers can be emphasized, for example by cunningly placing rocks that are painted. Your plan should be considered as a TV show of your own.

I disagree that one should pay a large sum for home decoration. What one needs is passion, to be inventive and patient. Let lose your imagination. Let your dining room have all it deserves.

### **Kids Room Decoration Strategy**

In a nutshell, kids room decor is the art of keeping their mess at a minimum. Let is face it, you kids room will never look like an army barrack and should not but you can get on top of the mess that is driving you crazy. It is all about creative storage. When the bits and pieces are up and out of your way, cleaning is simple, easy, and quick.

Here are some creative tips that can help turn tidying up your kids' room from a battlefield into an amusement park, or at least a place where they can easily focus on the task at hand. Make it fun and practical and your kids are more likely to play along (after all, playing is fun.)

Use a large toy chest on wheels that is easy to roll out of the way when you clean the floor. When open, it's low enough for toddlers to

reach. At clean up time, you can institute a game where they see who can get the most toys into the chest. Make it a race, and offer prizes, like stickers. Toddlers love to put small things into larger things, so use this to your advantage.

Institute games of laundry basket ball, where throwing laundry into the basket is target practice. As your child grows, mount the basket higher up the wall. This will keep them interested in continuing to hone their skills, and the laundry won't be mistaken for a carpet.

Book shelves should be cleared of books your children no longer enjoy, so there is space to put away their old favorites and current challenges. By using lots of dividers in the shelves, you need not wrestle with long domino like rows of books every time you want to put one away. When it is easier to put them away, it's easier to convince kids to do so.

Use the plastic containers from various food items to set up storage for game pieces. Opt for your kids' favorite (healthy!) snacks, so they make a positive association.

If your children get into doing puzzles with many pieces, have them always start that on a piece of cardboard. That way, you can move the whole thing when you need to clean up, with out ruining the kids' work and enticing their wrath. When they finish the puzzle, you can glue it to the cardboard and hang it on the wall. They get pride from seeing their own accomplishments, and proof of their own perseverance.

Ask them for ideas on how to make tidying up more fun! You might be surprised at their level of creativity and they are more likely to be committed to strategies they help develop.

## **House Decorations For Christmas Season**

For each Christmas holiday, many people look for House Christmas Decorations tips for their apartment. It is good to learn some Christmas decorating strategies to get each Christmas distinct from the previous year. Obtaining diverse designs each year make Christmas holiday significantly more exciting every time.

The best house Christmas decorations are invariably popular with all sorts of people who like spending time at-home in Christmas holiday. However, it's not simple to make something amazing to be described as as one of the right Christmas decorations. Families generally look for something easy, yet still attractive to catch all eyes. Right here are a few decorating advice for all people.

It doesn't matter if you have a property, live in a flat or only renting a place, there is no reason to not enjoy Christmas and set up even a few decorations of your very own. If you want to decorate simply your back garden, the whole residential home, or even a single room, you will find great Christmas decorating guidelines for absolutely everyone. You can take a look at different decorating tips you can also make use of.

The most important element in house Christmas decorations are the Christmas trees. If you happen to simply have a small room or apartment to decorate, you will not need a massive Christmas tree. There are many of smaller sized Christmas trees who are designed for table tops. You could also have a potted one if you like. You can also find the non-traditional Christmas trees which happens to be painted and also are meant for table decorations also. You will find

them in several colorization like purple, silver, platinum, green, violet, bright white, or maroon and others. Aside from a table Christmas tree, you will be able to decorate any room in your home with a Christmas designed door mat.

Additionally you can buy a Christmas stocking to hang to your wall. In the end, you can get a door knob decor. It is actually that easy. But if you've got the complete home to decorate, there are a lot of decors from which to select. From wax lights, to figurines, to garlands, until the major Christmas tree.

If you find yourself re-decorating the lawn, Christmas lights is one of the most popular options. Additionally you can find decorative devices that you might hold on the fence or entrance door. There are also lots of outdoor lighted decorations in any styles. You can find a lighted walking reindeer or simply a dancing and singing Santa Claus. You can too get many garlands, wreaths, nativity sets, and many others. Each one of these can certainly help in your House Christmas

## **How to Decorate A Room With Antique Furniture**

Antique furniture can really give a room a unique look. But deciding just which antique to decorate a room with and how to integrate them can be a bit confusing to many homeowners.

Antique furniture, whether it is a turn of the century fainting couch, a Victorian sideboard or an unusual lamp from the Art Deco period, can really make a room pop. Done correctly, the addition of antique furniture and décor can transform the entire character of a room.

There are two basic directions you can go with antiques. You can either use them as accents to a room decorated with more traditional or contemporary pieces. Or you can go all out and recreate the past with a room done entirely in antiques.

If you want to go the accent route, you want to start by carefully choosing the antiques to go in the room. Every room has a focal point, and the right antique can become the focal point of your room, allowing you to build around it so that it is showcased. For example, an antique grandfather clock can serve as a focal point in any room, as can an antique curio cabinet or an antique organ.

An antique can also play a supporting role. You can add a single antique piece to a room that is otherwise decorated in more modern furnishings. To do this, you want to adopt a singular overarching theme or color scheme that ties the pieces together visually. For instance, you could add an antique fainting couch that has a complementary or contrasting color of fabric.

Establishing relationships is the key when you decorate any room with antique furniture. You want antique furniture to stand out for the

right reasons, not because it seems out of place.

If you do not have any pieces that will serve as a focal point, you can still integrate them by making them supporting pieces. An antique sideboard can work well as a sofa table or as a bar in your room. Giving your antique furniture a purpose can make it look more at home in any room.

If you want to do an entire room in antiques, that takes a bit more work. The best way to tie the pieces together is through color, fabric, period or style. For example, you could go with a room that is decorated with nothing but Queen Anne furnishings or Chippendale. You could also choose a favorite fabric and have furniture from different periods reupholstered with it to give the room a unified look. The same is true with finishes. You would not necessarily want to add an antique desk in cherry in a room of oak. Staying consistent with fabrics and woods can help keep a room cohesive.

Just because you want to have the room filled with antiques does not mean the furniture has to be old these days, either. You can buy beautiful reproductions of period pieces for less money. You can also mix new antique pieces with real antiques to create the look you are after without having to empty your bank account. You can find that one defining piece that truly is a valuable antique and then supplement it with newer pieces that only look old.

Finally, you can do your own antiquing. This is a smart idea if you have an unusual piece that serves as the focal point and you want some of your favorite tables or accents to match. You can do some faux antiquing using finishes, paints and distressing techniques that can be found online.

As you work with the antique furnishings in your room, do not overlook the accents that really make a room look complete. This could be antique books, antique china, unusual knickknacks from another time and place or period lamps. An antique room can have an eclectic appearance to it, from the furniture to the window treatments. Depending on the period you're gravitating toward, it can even be hard to go overboard. Certainly, the Victorian era is evidence of this.

The best strategy is to go slowly when decorating with antiques. You want to shop carefully and deliberately, since antiques can be pricey. If you are on a budget, give consideration to reproductions. They can add beauty without busting your budget.

## **Decorate Your Home With Indoor Plants**

Indoor plants, also known as household plants are a great way to brighten up and decorate your home or office. Growing indoors is easy. Through out the whole year you can extend your gardening pleasure. Indoor plants also give us clean air and a cheerful sight for those ugly winter days. Gardening helps many people to relax. Many plants that are grown outside can be saved and you can transplant them indoors during winter. Make sure you save them before the first frost. Bamboo, Begonia, Bonsai, Cactus and Spider Plant are some of favorite indoor plants out there.

Some require more care than others do. Indoor gardening is just as fun as having an outdoor garden. Flowering plants will produce delicate scent and will also decorate your house and improve better oxygen environment. It is important that you know what kind of plant you have so that you know how to take care of that plant. Many people buy plants and don't know what kind it is and after a while they die because they do not get proper care. If you are a beginner and you have just started gardening you should choose plants that are easy to take care of such as Christmas Cactus, Dragon Tree, Snake Plant, Pothos and Cast Iron plant. They grow themselves and don't need much care. They can grow in the indirect light and produce a lot of baby plants.

They are also for beginners and people who are not used to water their plants. Do not water your indoor plants too much because they will get a root rot. Ivy is one of the hard to kill houseplants also. It is really easy to take care of them. Ivy does not need much watering and can grow in a low light. Bamboo is grown in water and is



especially easy to take care of it. Water should be refreshed occasionally and bamboo will do well. Wandering Jew can also be grown in water but does best in moist soil. Indoor plants add a touch of life in our homes and brings the outside world in our homes.

# **Organizing And Clutter Free Eating Space in the Dining Room and Kitchen**

Whether you eat at your dining room table, your kitchen table or a bar you need to be able to find it to eat there. Is your space having an identity crisis? Is it a collector of things? Things like the mail, receipts, school work, newspapers, magazines, telephone messages, work papers, scrapbooking supplies, groceries, keys, coats, jackets, collections, scarves, gloves, groceries and the list goes on and on. No wonder these areas have an identity crisis.

Okay so you want to reclaim your eating space, here are some solutions to finding your table again and keeping it clutter free.

## **Make a goal what do you want this space to do for you?**

- If you want a table that stays clear of 'stuff' like mentioned above one idea is to keep it set with a nice table cloth and place settings of dishes and silverware so it is not as likely to be dumped on.
- Do you want this area to be one where family members or even unexpected drop-in guests can gather for a chat?
- Would you like a place for all the family to be able to eat meals together without the hassle every day of clearing a space, thereby cluttering up another place in the kitchen or dining room?
- Is this space you would like to use between meals as a place to work on hobbies?

- After you decide what your goal is for your table then develop a strategy.
- Have a designated basket for mail. Take a moment to sort it and file it as it comes in. If you don't have time right then it can stay in the basket until you do make the time to sort it. This basket does not go on the table or counter.
- Set up strategic baskets in the home for newspapers, magazines, books and other printed material that in the past came in contact with the table. Do not set something down where it doesn't belong thinking you will leave it there just for a second. All too often it takes root and lives there. If you don't have a place for the item, take a moment and make a place and take it to its home.
- Develop an area for children to call their own. Each child has her/his own place for backpack, lunch box, school work etc. Each child is responsible for making sure things are put there and stay neat and tidy. If you have to remove anything of their's from the table then they have to do a chore to earn it back. (Including the all important backpack and school work).
- A chalk board, magnetic board, or cork board can be used to contain memos, phone messages and invitations, displaying items everyone needs to see. For invitations I like to record the date in my planner and then file the invitation in my FreedomFiler system by date so I can refer back to it when needed and not clutter up space on a board.
- Have a pencil/paper box near the phone to write down messages and then put them on the message board or fridge

(if you must) with a decorative magnet.

- If you use your table to do scrapbooking, working on collections etc., use a rolling file cabinet or cart to put projects on and 40 minutes before meal time whisk everything onto the cart or into storage bins, the ones with wheels are nice as they can be easily retrieved when necessary. This way you can still have projects out and handy but not cluttering the table. Teach children to clean up after craft time.
- Have a designated drawer as a resource drawer AKA junk drawer to hold rubber bands, bag ties, candle lighters etc. As you take off the twist ties from grocery items put them away immediately, don't place on the counter. These do not live on the table or counter.
- Every family member needs to know the expectation is to hang up coats, jackets, and to put away gloves and scarves in a basket in the coat closet. The same goes for sports accessories/equipment. They go in their designated areas, not on the table or counter.
- Have a designated place for keys. A cup hook inside a kitchen cabinet is handy and practical.
- Designate a separate location for home-office needs. Even if you don't have an office, keep files and important papers in a separate area of the house.

Keeping the dining room, kitchen or the kitchen bar eating area free of clutter is a lifestyle. Set your goals, have containers available and assign items for different baskets, train family members and

remember this is not a one time task. It is a system that is used daily or things take on a life of their own and quickly can pile up.

## Ways To Avoid Common Decorating Mistakes

There are dozens of television shows and magazines devoted solely to home decorating. When you decide to redecorate your home, you should have no problem finding some great ideas. Most people begin by choosing a paint color or some furniture that they love and then they design their room around those choices. This is not always the best strategy. If you want to design a room that you will enjoy for years, you should avoid a few common decorating mistakes.

First, do not begin with paint chips. This is the most common mistake people make when starting a decorating project. Skip the paint aisle in the home improvement store and look through the objects you already own. Find something that you adore and use it as your inspiration piece. It could be a beautiful silk blouse or an ornate area rug. It might just be the pattern on your dinner plates. When you find a piece that is inspiring and beautiful, then you are ready to begin your room makeover.

Choose a neutral paint color that compliments your inspiration piece. Most people make bold choices when they paint their homes, but this never pays off in the long run. You should always choose a wall color that can change with your home décor. If you decide to change your furniture, your rug, or your curtains, you don't want to repaint each time! So begin with a neutral color as your foundation.

Your next step is to shop for furniture and accessories that reflect your inspiration piece. Many people forget to add accessories, but this is a huge mistake! The small details set beautiful rooms apart from average designs. Accessories are the perfect excuse to add

bold punches of colors against your neutral wall color. Start with the big pieces and work your way down to the smallest accessories.

Another common decorating mistake is forgetting texture. By mixing the textures in your room, you add visual interest. You can mix textures by selecting silk drapes to compliment your leather couch. Or you could choose some fabric covered picture frames. Wooden photo frames or carvings add great punches of texture around a room. One of the oldest design tricks is adding a beautiful vase full of bare branches. The visual effect of the rustic texture in the branches is amazing.

Finally, do not make the mistake of ignoring your floor. Many people completely overlook their flooring when redecorating a room. They assume that if they have nice carpet or hardwood floors, then they don't need to change anything. Every beautiful room should have an area rug, even if it covers beautiful flooring. Area rugs add another element of texture and additional color to the room. Resist the temptation to purchase a plain area rug that blends in with your design. Rugs offer the perfect opportunity to add an unexpected twist to your design. If your room is decorated with modern design elements, a traditional rug can add a touch of elegance that boosts the decoration from typical to extraordinary. Do not overlook the power of an area rug to add the finishing touch on a beautiful room.

## **Common Mistakes To Avoid When Decorating A Living Room**

Most people enjoy decorating their living room with all the ideas and plans in their mind, but they always tend to make common mistakes over and over again yet never know what are the causes. Here I will share some tips on how to decorate a living room avoiding some of the common mistakes.

Instead of quality, people go for quantity, this is a common mistake we often made. Just because the accessories are very cheap does not mean we have to buy a lot of them to accessorize our living room. We will end up purchasing something needless and don't add a contribution to our decoration, even made our room cluttered which in turns offer nothing but annoyance, in short, we are wasting our money for something do not worth. It doesn't mean that we can purchase moderate to very expensive furniture because it looks beautiful, we still have to take theme matching into consideration when picking a nice furniture. I won't take the risk to purchase a piece of furniture that won't match with my living room theme. It's a waste of money. Think wisely before you purchase anything.

Cluttered and messy furniture arrangement, this is another big common mistake we often made. I remembered my first office room furniture arrangement consumed too much spaces and the whole room was very cluttered and messy, there is not much spaces for walkway. After some rearrangement, my furniture were arranged in much more organized way, there is even a big spaces for walkway and the whole room looks bigger although it was just a 200 ft room. Try to arrange your furniture in a more organized way as this not only



make your living room clean and tidy, it also creates a harmony and comfortable environment.

Non matching style or theme, either directly or indirectly, well planned or go without any plan, we often purchased a furniture we like much but it never matches with our theme. Maybe the price is reasonable and the furniture style is one of the best, but keep in mind that, furniture that do not match our theme from the beginning will always be not matching until we switch our theme or style that matches with it. Once we decided to go for our style, stick to it and never get tempted to other furniture style especially the latest trend. They will be the past very soon so never follow the trend as it is not practical at all.

Created two or more competing focal point, another common mistake. Lets say We have a big beautiful canvas wall art on the wall, then we have another big plasma TV on the other side, and maybe there is a beautiful grand piano on the other side again, these 3 decor are actually competing with each other in terms of focal point because they are very attractive. We only want to create one focal point in our living room, so choose either one to become our living room focal point, depends on situation, we may or may not combine either 2 or 3 together to become a very strong focal point.

These are some of the common mistakes that we should avoid when we want to decorate a living room. By avoiding these common mistakes, it would ride us off the hassles when we are going to decorate a living room thus making the process much more simple. How to decorate a living room without hassles is as simple as avoiding common mistakes.

# **Chapter Eight**

# Creative Ways To Add Colors To Your Home Decoration



**A**re you scared of color because you are scared of committing? Color is an effective way to bring personality, and create a focal point in your home's spaces. Unexpected utilization of colors speaks volumes about your personal style as well as sets your home apart.

Decorating your space, in terms of color, should not be challenging. Actually, it is as effortless as 60 – 30 – 10. If you look at some of the example rooms in a designer's portfolio, or in magazines, you will confirm this to be true most rooms are invariably divided in percentages of 60 – 30 – 10. So why is this the case? It is because of the human tendency to view an overall theme in 60% hue, unifying the coloration, followed by 30% that entails visual interest while the remaining 10% adds some little spark.

When handling your home décor, you should divide them into these percentages:

- 10% of an accent color
- 30% of secondary color
- 60% of a dominant color

The following are some of the creative ways to add colors to your home décor:

## **Use Color to Get Emotional**

Everyone associates colors with something they represent. For instance, red can represent warmth, yellow; the sun, blue; the sea and air, and green often represents trees. Generally, all these are considered to be emotional responses to color, compared to intellectual responses. Therefore, you can utilize the emotional associations to bring out their greatest effects within a space. You can do so by deciding on the emotional impact you desire in a room. Do you want it to be lively? If yes, then yellows and reds are the ideal choices. Do you desire subdued? If yes, then browns and blues are the best.

It is really important to note is that the color you settle for ought to reflect the activities performed in its space. For instance, if it's for rest, such as a family room or a bedroom, you need to settle for darker values of color which relate to restfulness such as browns, blues and greens.

### **Consider Contrast**

High contrast spaces appear clearer as well as more defined compared to a space that includes low contrasts. A high contrast space is one that utilizes dark and light values of color in combination with light gold. Low contrast rooms, on the other hand, utilize sage green with saffron yellow. The golden rule is to use high contrast to improve your room's formality and high contrast colors to introduce soothing qualities.

When paired, white and black are formal in appearance. They're not like a tuxedo. Combining black and white is less of a color value and more of subtracting or adding light. However, white with beige boasts a low contrast coupled with a feeling of calmness. By combining

black and white with gray, you'll enjoy a low key atmosphere and it also helps to create a restful space.

### **Flow with Color**

For you to create a color flow from a single room to another, all you need to do is select a color you use in one room and then restate it differently in an adjoining space. For instance, is your sofa green? You can utilize the same green for seat fabrics in your dining room. Utilize the color in smaller and larger degrees as you move around the home. The same green for the living room sofa, earlier mentioned, also applies to lampshades in your family room. You can also choose to place mats inside the kitchen.

### **Consider Adding Color to Your Furniture Pieces**

Bold color choices are not restricted to walls. Therefore, why not jazz up your old furniture piece(s) that you might have fallen out of love with? For instance, you can paint your walls yellow, and then accent your furniture with pops of a q ua. Regardless of your locale's color, it is possible to select colors that reflect the region you live in. The other painless way to select colors is by opting for seasonal color variations. Fall colors such as browns, russets, and mustard yellows will create a subdued and calm space that's ideal for resting. On the other hand, spring colors tend to be more uplifting. Saffron yellow, lilac and pinks impart a fresh and naïve look to your room.

### **Consider Adding Some Mother Nature**

Green plants, as well as flowering ones, usually add personality, fragrance, color, and great feelings to a living room. For those that lack a green thumb, they should ask a home center, or nursery, for

recommendations of plants that need no or little care. If you are far from your home for long, you should settle for the incredible ones available in the market now. Look for great looking flowers, foliage and plants that only require dusting.

## **Have a Color Scheme**

Choosing the right color scheme for your room can be challenging. Fortunately, there's a way to simplify the process. You can do so by utilizing a color wheel, and then narrowing down your selection to two color schemes. Of course, there are more. However, the following are not only effective, but are also excellent places to start:

- Analogous color scheme - Rooms that utilize this color scheme are more muted, restful and casual when it comes to coloration.
- Complementary color scheme - Rooms that employ this color scheme offer a clear separation of colors.

## Think about Seasonal and Local Colors

By studying past color schemes you will surely be able to create a room's color by incorporating the already accepted color schemes.

## Final Thoughts

When it comes to decorating a home, not everyone has the time and money to conduct a complete makeover. Fortunately, there are plenty of creative ways to pimp your home décoration using colors. Employ the above strategies and you will certainly be able to transform the look and feel of your home. There's no doubt about that.

# **Using Color Combinations For Your Home Decoration**

Color combinations, palettes, and color schemes play a major part in complementing the indoor spaces of your home, adding to the overall design, and creating the ambiance or feel that you are going for in your house. Whether you are planning a major home makeover or redesign, or putting your home on the market and utilizing home staging efforts as part of the strategy, being aware of the power of color schemes will be an advantage to you as you set out to find the right balance and visual impact that your house needs.

## **Not just the paint**

When you consider color combinations and schemes, this does not refer to just the paint on the walls (although paint is a major aspect of it). You will also factor in the furniture that will be installed in that area, fixtures, lighting, window treatments, accessories, décor, and other visual elements that also tie in with a room or area's color scheme. In other words, be prepared for changes not only to the color of the walls, but also updates on the functional and decorative items you already have in that space.

## **Where to start**

Figuring out where to start can be confusing. Don't try to change everything all at once; this can be overwhelming, and different areas of the home need different perspectives and blends in order to create the proper ambiance. You can start with the home's formal areas, such as the entrance or foyer, dining room, and living room.

Incidentally, these are also some of the most high-traffic rooms of the house where you will be spending a lot of time hanging out with family or entertaining company. You can pick a high-impact color combination for these formal areas, and then simply adopt a lighter shade for other areas around the home, creating a unified theme.

You can also anchor the color schemes to certain large patterns or décor in the room or space. If you have a large Oriental area rug in the living room, for example, you can use one of the major color shades of the rug as the base for your walls or ceiling. Or if you have a piece of artwork as the central focal point of your dining room, a couple of the colors and hues could be your inspiration for that room's furniture. This creates a sense of harmony and is easier for the viewer to appreciate.

### **Accessorize**

Accessories, home décor items, window treatments, and furniture should be incorporated into the color combination for complete visual effect. Avoid using too much of the exact same shade, however, as this can look monotonous and uninspired. For instance, if green is the color scheme you have picked for your living room, pick a darker shade of green for your drapes or throw pillows, aquatic green hues for coffee table centerpiece or décor, and a hint of brown and other earth colors to complete a very nature inspired theme.