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Here's this month's edition with organizing and redesign ideas.

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If you are having any problems or issues with paper or time management, clutter, organizational systems or interior redesign, let me know!

TIP: Instead of a ceiling-mounted pot rack which looks a bit industrial, use a coat rack to hang cookware. Attach a board mounted with coat hooks to the wall's studs with deck screws; pots and pans dangle from S-hooks hung on lower hooks and lids on upper hooks. — from *This Old House Magazine*

The Problem with "Someday" and "Might"

Someday Syndrome

When sorting through belongings and clutter, I often hear clients say "I might need/want/use it someday". Their rationale for keeping something is that you never know, so better to hang on to the item in case it's needed in the future.

Those 2 words — in case — are not music to an Organizer's ears. Those words represent a common excuse used to justify hanging on to clutter. By definition, it is a disordered collection or state — clutter can be physical objects (stuff), emotions (felt because of the stuff), or ac-

tivities (too many things going on that clutter your mind). Items you don't use, don't like, can't find, or don't need are clutter.

Clutter takes the space up of valuable items. More things means more cleaning, more work, more storage, etc. So the longer you hold onto clutter for "someday", the more of all that work, storage, and time is taken from you and your things.

Think of it this way: imagine you are saving something just in case. You have it on a shelf for 10 years. That means for 10 years you are taking care of that item just to be able to address an anxiety. The item could have been donated to someone in need, or it could have been thrown away and you'd have avoided dealing with it for 10 years. Certainly this is an extreme, cut-and-dried example, but it's not too far from some of the things I've seen in client's homes.

Don't let material objects exert power over you — who needs guilt or worry or feelings of indecision over a thing? Trust that if someday comes, you can get another. You'll feel surprisingly liberated to do so!

Basement Organization by Rubbermaid

“Your basement has likely been a catchall for assorted household goods over the years. And, chances are, you may not even remember what's down there any more. So the best way to start this overhaul is to move everything out of the basement. (If this is fundamentally impossible, consider “cornering” your gear, or shifting it to



one side.) Yes, if you've got a lot of stuff stashed then this may take a while, but it'll help you identify exactly what you have stored and give you a better chance to scrutinize the space, and decide how to use it more wisely.

Group your Goods

The basement is the ideal place to store supplies, especially bulk grocery items, off-season clothes and sports gear, even archive tax records. The key though, is that the space needs to stay organized and not just be a dumping ground. Sorting bits and pieces into these categories will help you find whatever you need in a matter of moments, and keep them safe, tidy and out of your way, when you don't.

Suggested Categories:

- Cleaning products: vacuum, mop, broom
- Laundry items: detergent, fabric softener
- Bulk grocery items: cases of water, paper products
- Handyman essentials: tool box, extra light bulbs
- Home decor materials: paint supplies, flooring extras
- Pet Supplies: pet food, litter, grooming tools, towels
- Holiday decorations
- Off-season clothing and shoes
- Seasonal sports equipment
- Banker's boxes of files

Select Shelving

Whether your basement is large or small, you'll want to maximize the space. One of the best ways to do that is to think vertically. Shelving is a great for stacking and elevating items such as pet foods, paint cans and toolboxes. Stack loose

items and labeled storage containers on the shelves to keep objects corralled and within reach.

Choose Containers

Although traditionally a popular choice, packing basement-bound items in cardboard boxes is a definite storage no-no. Avoid keeping valuables (photos, tax records, etc.) in cardboard boxes. If there's any moisture in the basement it could compromise the

Great space-saver for a closet or foyer where outerwear and shoes are kept. Use vertical wall space with a boot storage rack. Chore Boot Rack, \$18. gemplers.com.



boxes damaging what's inside and leading to mold and mildew growth. Instead, file photos in securely lidded Clever Store™ containers and put smaller items like nails and screws in transparent Easy Find Lids™ containers. Off-season shoes and sandals would fit nicely in Roughneck® containers.”



HAPPY SPRING! Spring Cleaning

is a great time to get organized!

- PM

