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Orderly Manor

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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!

According to *Real Simple* June 2010, whether you are left-brained or right-brained has an impact on your organizing habits.



**Left-brainers** (planners, think in words, rational ways) > "You tend to crave designated locations for everything. Because you like to sort, options with compartments can be especially satisfying. Left-brainers often prefer to keep things out of sight, so boxes that stack nicely in drawers or closets are appealing. [You have an] urge for extreme order."

**Right-brainers** (visually-oriented, big picture, creative) > "Forget about trying to adhere to strict rules. Your keep-it-neat plan should capitalize on your pull toward the creative and the emotional. Containers you already own and love can be motivating. Investigate your clutter patterns, [and put things where you drop them]. If it works for you, it's correct".

### PROBLEM AREAS FOR CLUTTER



• Large flat surfaces such as the kitchen table, coffee table, or guest bed are clutter magnets.

• The entryway is the first place you and your guests see, but it is often the most chaotic.

Family members dump their bags, backpacks, shoes, and coats here.

- Kitchen counters seem to be the drop zone for paperwork, mail, newspapers/magazines, and projects.



- The basement, attic, and garage are 3 classic spots for clutter collection. They are considered the outskirts of the home and not always a priority.

Being aware of these clutter magnet areas will allow you to focus on managing these places in your home — and perhaps redoing the systems and routines that contribute to the clutter in the first place.

At [supercook.com](http://supercook.com), you can search for recipes based on ingredients you have on hand

### Summertime Organization

The last thing you want to do in the sunny, hot weather is organize. But what about keeping the summer things organized? The season comes with all sorts of gear and seasonal-specific 'stuff' you only access in summertime — beach & pool items, outdoor furniture and accessories, sports equipment, bug spray and sunscreen, etc.



Here are some things you can do to keep summer clutter at bay:

- \* Use a deck box (by Rubbermaid or Sunbath) to hold towels and one to hold outdoor toys



- \* Corral pool or beach toys in a container that can stay outdoors



- \* Keep small pool equipment (chlorine, testers, thermometer, etc) in a labeled, lidded bin — ready when summer comes; stored well the rest of the year in a shed or garage

- \* Use an open bin to hold sunscreen and bug spray, and keep it inside in an easily accessible spot so all family members can grab



- \* Use an extra laundry basket for beach towels, cover-ups and suits. If you need to head to the water park, river, lake or pool, the entire basket can go with you.

- \* Use a folding clothes rack for hanging towels poolside

- \* Use a kiddie pool to bathe the dog, as a sandbox, or to wash freshly cut grass off your feet before entering the pool

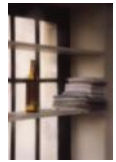


- \* Move all winter items like snow shovels, chains, jumper cables and rock salt out of the way

- \* Stock up on condiments, paper products, grill supplies, disposable cutlery, et al in preparation for outdoor dining and BBQing



there, doesn't mean you have to use it. It's okay if you have drawers or shelves that are NOT filled. If you need the space to store items that logically go there and the space works for you, by all means use it. But do not fill space just because you have space. This applies to closets and drawers that may be inaccessible, difficult to reach, or unneeded as storage space.



Some examples of items that have catchall spots are sideboards or cabinets with itty-bitty drawers, over-the-desk organizers with a dozen little cubbies, or decorative chests with small nooks (not to mention all the in-desk sectioned trays). Instead of doo-dads being put in these spaces and then being forgotten, you're better off to avoid them or use partial space. Otherwise, you'll pull out a drawer or open a bin and say "Oh, that's where it was!" or "I wondered where I put that."

Maybe this explains why, sometimes, people who live in smaller homes are more organized -- because they have to be, and belongings can't spread out all over into every crevice.

### A FAVE PRODUCT:



Clear heavy-duty plastic box and lid, with latches that lock lid in place; stacks easily; add labels to side that faces you and on lid; inexpensive storage!

- PM



Finally, some food for thought...Just because it is