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



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Kitchen Control Tips

Being prepared sometimes is a disadvantage when it comes to having extras of foodstuffs, paper goods, housewares, etc. Whereas you might think you're being organized by having extra or back-up items, sometimes there is too much of a good thing. You have to deal with the storage of the regularly used items plus the ones you're keeping in the kitchen.

Consider the rationale I hear when trying to sort/purge/reduce inventory:

• "I need all of them because sometimes when we have parties or people over, we need that many". > Use an annex or pantry to store extra foodstuffs, serving-ware and utensils as well as special or one-occasion items. That way, when you need them, you have them, assuming you truly do. Things you don't use often should be taking up valuable real estate in the kitchen.



• "This item is for (insert special type or situation) and that one is for (insert another special type or situation). I cannot possibly intermix them or use that one

for something else". > Back in the olden days, when there were fewer options, people dealt. They survived. Remember, the more stuff you have, the more you have to store, clean, move, deal with, etc. Consider whether you're creating rules & procedures that really don't need to be in place.

• "We use all of those." > There is no way you can or probably use a large number of glasses or utensils in a given week. Normally we use then wash things in a 2-day period, and then likely grab the same or another similar item the next time they are needed. Try removing the contents of a drawer or shelf out and put into a box on the counter. During a normal week, when you need one of the items from the box, pull it out and when done, it goes back to its spot in the drawer or on the shelf. At the end of the week you'll know what you use regularly, and whatever's still in the box is not



You can send any model of cell phone to **Cell Phones for Soldiers**, and they will be sold to a recycling company; proceeds go to buying calling cards (minutes) for soldiers.

Mail to: 2555 Bishop Circle West, Dexter, MI 48130-9916. You can print a receipt and free postage label at CellPhonesforSoldiers.com. What a great way to recycle and donate to a worthy cause in addition to decluttering!



one of those!

Too Many Catalogs??

If you are having separation anxiety in trying to part from every catalog, here are some tips to handle all the tempting 'store magazines' you are getting.



RealSimple.com suggests "Separate these bulky items from your other mail before you even take off your coat. Put them in a designated basket or magazine tote so you can transport them easily from room to room for perusing, then to the recycling bin when you're done. Pick a container that's big enough to hold the month's required reading but small enough to force you to purge the old issues to make room for the new."

Treat the catalogs like magazines or newspapers - put them in a vertical magazine rack until you read them. The finite space will force you to be attentive to the contents and purge when there is no space left.

Keep in mind that 99% of the time there is a website address or phone number available on every page of a catalog -- even if only the store name appears on the page(s) you ripped, you could search online. After pulling out the page(s), take a second to mark the item you're considering so you avoid saying 'why did I want this?'

I do *not* recommend any fancy storage or filing system for this kind of stuff. Sometimes organizing tips will talk about filing catalogs, putting them into plastic sleeves in binders, etc., but I'm not an advocate. To me, that's tantamount to ironing & folding underwear -- unnecessary.

Special Days Coming

Up...

Memorial Day -- May 25

Graduation -- varies

Father's Day -- June 21

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER...

Sometimes I hear people say "I'm too busy to get organized" or "I can't handle doing organizing sessions with all that I have going on right now". Here's my thought: when you're that busy, it is even more important to become organized (or more organized). Don't you think that maybe if you were more organized, your house less cluttered, your time more efficient, et al, that you might be less busy? It is not that you can't do organizing because you're busy, but that you are busy because you aren't doing organizing!

We have our cause and effect reversed. To me, it's like someone saying that they're too sick to take medicine. The thing you're not making time for is the very thing that could help! Sometimes it's necessary to stop and realize that a short amount of organization invested pays off for a lot of extra time, peace, and satisfaction down the road.

