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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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Quick Tips from Redbook. 9/09
Dump spare change into a collection spot. When it's full, bring it to the bank or coin machine and use the amount towards a splurge or deposit it into your savings.

Plan out meals and grocery shop by that plan. Put a star next to the items on the list that you have a coupon for.

Choose a credit card that gives you points or rewards for using it.

Keep coupons organized and accessible. Share unused coupons with friends or family members that you know use coupons. Sources for coupons:



- newspaper
- online sites
- manufacturer's websites

Set a goal. every time you're considering a purchase, ask yourself "would I rather put more money toward (your goal) or purchase this item?"

Check out eBay, Craigslist and Freecycle before you buy.

My 2 Cents About Shredders

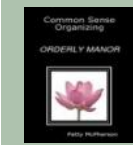
The majority of my clients who have shredders either 1) don't use them, 2) hate them, 3) have jammed shredders needing repair, or 4) all of the above. Which explains why I am not a big fan of shredders. They end up causing more clutter and headaches than helping. An item in www.solutions.com/ provides an interesting alternative besides, say, just ripping up sensitive material yourself. Here's a quick, easy way to protect your address,



account numbers and other information before you recycle. Cover it up with a push of this stamp—the unique proprietary ink leaves behind a jumbled pattern of characters that make things unreadable. Use on credit card offers, bank statements, personal letters and more.



You might be interested in my book, a compilation of organizing and redesign tips and solutions. Check out "**Common Sense Organizing**", a downloadable e-book, at Lulu.com.



So much of what we do every day is about routine, habit and what we're used to. Take eating habits or exercise, for example. We may say "tomorrow, I'm going to eat less" or "every day, I'm going to exercise (more)" but then tomorrow comes, and not eating better or exercising more. Creatures of habit are we, and sometimes don't even realize how much so. We make the resolve, and then by the next afternoon, it dawns on us that, like a robot, we do what we always do, almost unconsciously.

It's as if we go into auto-pilot, and follow that easy path of the norm. It is much harder to diverge and do something different. In re: to organizing, we can talk about becoming more organized, but our habits win over. We are not used to doing the different behavior (whether it is diet, exercise or staying organized) so days become weeks, weeks become months, and we're still in the same place.

So what's the solution? If it were easy, there wouldn't be so many quick fixes advertised for losing weight or gym membership offers. What might be hard for one may be easier



for another. It may have something to do with 2 factors:

1. **end-of-your-rope-itis:** You get to a point where you are sick and tired of the status quo, things are not working as is, so the extreme pushes your motivation to change. For instance, the clutter is getting too much and disorganization is affecting everyone in your household.
2. **pleasure:** I enjoy being organized, but do not enjoy exercising. You may be the opposite. The more we like or enjoy the behavior, obviously we are more motivated to do it. Furthermore, if we see positive results, then we stick with it. We work on decluttering, find things we couldn't find, clear out space and feel less stressed -- now we are more apt to continue.



Be honest with yourself about the areas you want to change, considering the two factors above. Maybe it can give you a different perspective and get you out of auto-pilot.

STAGING IS GOOD FOR BUYER AND SELLER

Staging a property prior to going on the market benefits everyone involved with the sale and purchase of the property. Professional stagers recommend repairs and upgrades that are needed to get the property ready to go on the market.

Staging gives buyers peace of mind knowing that any potential issues have been addressed, in addition staging also shows buyers the property's true potential. Buyers often do not have the funds to move into a property and come up with more money to address repairs, painting, etc. Buyers have come to realize and appreciate the benefits of purchasing a staged property as these properties are move-in ready.

Staged properties will sell faster when compared with un-staged houses. From the date of listing until the day of closing, home staging shortens this time frame, even in a slow real estate market. Buyers' agents recognize that professionally staged listings are move-in ready and

are inclined to show a seller's house. Photos of professionally staged listings look better in print and web media. — edited from Real Estate Staging Assn



Bedroom Organization

The bedroom is supposed to be a place of calm and relaxation, but often (because we feel like no one sees it but us), we stow lots of stuff and have clutter there. If flat surfaces in your bedroom are covered, then serenity goes out the window. To maximize the amount of space you have in the bedroom, you often need to get creative. You could get headboards with shelves, use storage boxes under bed, or buy an armoire to give more room to store things. Mount lamps to wall instead of bedside lamps. Replace bedside tables with small chests of drawers for more storage space.

We wear 20% of the clothes we own 80% of the time. The rest hangs there, just in case. You have to go through any closet before

you organize to toss or donate anything you don't wear on a regular basis. Sometimes just doing that will reduce the clutter and make your closet more manageable.

You can purchase a closet system or parts of a closet system to add more organization. Utilize wire-basket drawers, hanging rods, numerous shelves, tie and belt racks, and plastic or decorative boxes to the space. To make better use of the closet you have, put the back of the closet door to work, add shelves above your clothes racks, install 2 rows of rods, use shoe racks, keep like things together, and find another spot to stow your sports gear & luggage.

ENJOY THE FALL!

