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Happy Valentines Day!

### Expert Advice

Organization can reduce stress and give you a sense of peace. We have included a couple ideas to simplify and organize your home and life.

### Household Organization Tips

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Struggling with clutter, chaos and disorganization in your home can waste a lot of time every day. If you want to make better use of your time and have more peace of mind, then gain control of the organization in your home. Take the time to arrange your belongings and develop methods to keep things under control. This will allow you more free time in the future for more enjoyable pursuits.

1. **Get Rid of Things You Don't Need:** A basic method of making your home neater and more organized is to get rid of some things. Go through clothing, books, old toys, kitchen gadgets, and anything else that is cluttering up your house. Box up the things you never use and sell them online or give them away to a charity, friend or neighbor. Someone else is sure to appreciate the things that are getting in your way. This will free up more room in your house to organize the things that you need and use regularly.
2. **Make Places for Things:** It's hard to put something away when there is nowhere to put it. Designate locations for things and make a point of keeping them there. Use a large built in shelf to hold all of your books. Once you clear your kitchen cabinets of things you don't need, use the extra space to store dishes, staple foods, small appliances, cutlery and linens. Organize dressers and closets to store clothing in a rational and efficient way. The key to making this work is to have more space than possessions. Many people acquire extra space by building an addition or buying a larger house, then simply filling the extra space with even more junk. Go in the opposite direction as much as you can. You will find your house becoming

neater, more spacious, and more pleasant to spend time in.

3. **Utilize Inconvenient Space:** Every house has space that isn't particularly accessible. Garages, basements, crawlspaces, and the backs of oddly shaped closets are examples. Put the things that you rarely use but don't want to get rid of into these out-of-the-way places. Examples might be camping gear, coolers, sports equipment, or mementos from your youth. Some of these things won't be touched for years, so there's no reason to have them taking up valuable shelf space in your living room. Box them up securely, write what's in the box on the front of the box with magic marker, and hide it in the crawlspace. Now you still have it, but it's completely out of the way.

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