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A PLACE FOR

Everything

Make every room more functional
(and pleasing to the eye) with these brilliant
space-saving tips from organizing pros.

by **MONIQUE VALERIS**



BEDROOM CLOSET

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Be consistent across shelves.

Bring a sense of balance to a bedroom closet by using the same product type on each horizontal shelf, professional organizer Stephanie Treantos says. "Acrylic containers, stacked shoeboxes and multipurpose bins all work together when placed at consistent heights."



before

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4 STEPS FOR EASIER ORGANIZING

CAROLYN FORTÉ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CLEANING LAB

1

START SMALL.

To keep from getting overwhelmed, begin by tackling just a drawer, shelf or closet, or only one type of item, such as purses. This small victory will give you the motivation to conquer bigger tasks.

2

DIVIDE ROOMS INTO ZONES.

If organizing your bedroom is your goal, break the room up into designated areas, like the dresser, nightstands and closet. Complete your work on one zone before moving to the next to avoid getting distracted.

3

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.

Before investing in new boxes and bins, try repurposing what you already have. Lunchtime bento boxes are perfect for holding extra makeup or toiletry supplies, and a divided desktop caddy keeps snacks and small pantry packets accessible.

4

GO VERTICAL.

Use the backs of doors, tall under-sink cabinets and wall-mounted hooks and shelving to stack more into these open spaces.



Squeeze shelves into a nook.

No linen closet? No problem. Take a cue from organizational designer Laura Cattano. When she moved into a 350-square-foot studio in Brooklyn, NY, she tucked white shelves into a tiny corner for much-needed storage. To keep the room looking tidy, she folded the towels to fit the shelves and took toilet paper out of its packaging. Framed cutouts from an art book, pops of fresh greenery and a few decorative containers add personality. "I prefer every space to look like a living space," she says.



"The use of
white on white
helps reduce visual
clutter and is
instantly calming."

LAURA CATTANO
ORGANIZATIONAL
DESIGNER
LAURACATTANO.COM

CRAFT CLOSET



"If you use storage pieces from different lines or stores, be sure to choose complementary styles and colors."

STEPHANIE TREANTOS
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER
LEMONAIDSOLUTIONS.COM



Stay organized with colored bins.

Without order, the continual growth of a collection of craft supplies can make it hard to find what you need and thus put a damper on creativity. For this client, Treantos employed color-coded bins to organize items vertically by category — scissors, paint, markers, etc. Plus, she kept frequently needed supplies in bins on lower shelves and removed the lids for easy access. "Every inch was used wisely," she says.



PANTRY



"Use closed pantry areas for items that are less visually appealing. Display pieces you love and that complement your home and style on open shelves."

LAURA KINSELLA
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER
URBANORGANYZE.COM



Stack breakables on risers.

"Acrylic shelf risers double the usable space without distracting from the stunning dishware and serving pieces," says Laura Kinsella of this pantry she organized for a family of four. Special-occasion dishes were placed higher in the cabinet, while zones on lower shelves were reserved for everyday pieces. "We brought harmony to the design," she says. "We also measured the cabinet dimensions, including the width of the doors when closed, to ensure that the layout was functional and anchored to the glass panels."

DRAWERS



"When it comes to your kitchen, think function first—even if it takes more space."

For example, store pans and food storage containers with lids on for easy access."

NIKKI BOYD
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER
ATHOMEWITHNIKKI.COM

Use racks to keep dishes tidy.

Keep go-to dishes within reach. Professional organizer Nikki Boyd uses inexpensive wooden plate racks from IKEA. "They keep my dishware upright and make it easy to grab," she says.



"Take five minutes every few months to declutter and adjust the layout of your drawers."

SHIRA GILL
ORGANIZING EXPERT
AND AUTHOR
SHIRAGILL.COM

Place bins in drawers.

"We wanted to maximize storage without sacrificing the minimalist aesthetic that helps the space feel serene despite its size," Gill says of the deep vanity drawers in her compact bathroom. The bins are her family's "secret weapon" for groupings of dental-care and skincare items and paper goods: "Zones make finding and returning items effortless."

