

IN THIS NEWS LETTER, WE WILL DISCUSS...

- Thanksgiving – Ways to Make Hosting Easier
- Conquering Your Hall Closet
- 5 Ways to Keep up With the Laundry

Thanksgiving – Ways to Make Hosting Easier

Thanksgiving is coming, Thanksgiving is coming! If you are lucky enough to be hosting your loved ones it is common to become overwhelmed and lose the spirit of a favorite holiday. Take these few tips below and enjoy the day, instead of worrying it away.

POTLUCK – Try something new and make it a potluck affair. While you provide the dessert, cheese tray, soup, turkey, and house try assigning guests other things to bring, such as the following:

- Drinks: wine from one person or couple, and sodas from someone else.
- Have a relative bring her famous dish, perhaps her carrot casserole, or your aunt's black bean salsa.
- Another person can bring fruit salad
- Veggie tray – Since this can be super time consuming. Have someone else do it!
- Guacamole, salsa and chips
- Potato chips and French onion dip or pretzels and mustard

Hire a cleaning person – While it may seem like a luxury or an unnecessary expense, remember your time is worth a lot. If this is affordable it will save you the stress of cleaning your entire house and give you peace of mind that every nook and cranny is clean. If you can't afford it, you can create that "just cleaned by a professional" feeling. Divide up amongst your family members a couple of chores each day during the week leading up until Thanksgiving Thursday. For example, Monday clean the toilet(s) and bathtub(s) or shower stalls, Tuesday rake the yard, Wednesday dust and wash the windows and mirrors in the bathroom. Thursday, while you're putting together your feast, have someone vacuum and wash the floors, wipe down the kitchen counters, and make the beds.



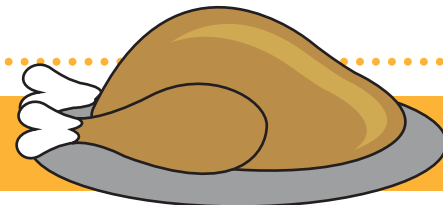
COOK AND FREEZE - Cook ahead of time and freeze the following:

- Pie crusts or the whole pie. To add some oomph to your pie, use a turkey shaped cookie cutter and place the decorative pieces on top of the pie. Not only will your pie look great, it will hide any lumps and bumps you may have in your crust. If you aren't a natural at pie crust making and don't want to buy the crust, try making a crisp instead, it is easy and pretty. Here's a link to a great one: <http://tinyurl.com/ylzxyrx>. One other way to bypass the crust altogether is to buy a graham cracker crust for your pumpkin pie.

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- Tart shells – <http://tinyurl.com/yfzuwx4> These are a favorite in my family. My mom's friend bakes them every year for us and then freezes them. They are always delicious. You just need to place them on a baker's sheet the day of your festivities to crisp them up and, voila, you have fresh tart shells. Then all you need is the filing, which you can conveniently purchase at the grocery store!
- Sweet mashed potatoes – Cook the yams and mash them. Cover them well to avoid freezer burn. You will have delicious traditional yams ready and waiting in your freezer on turkey-day.
- Celery root puree soup – Here's one recipe for this easy-to-freeze soup. <http://tinyurl.com/yf79ha9> In fact it usually tastes better later, if frozen properly. Make sure the container you use seals very well.

Here is a great website that lists what to freeze and not to freeze: <http://tinyurl.com/yg6damw>

Set the table the night before – That way you can focus on cooking the turkey, and getting your serving trays and dishes laid out and ready for the food that is coming. Tip - chocolate turkeys make great decorations, says my fabulous hostess sister.

Prepare the cheese – Cutting those endless cubes ahead of time means you can put the whole lot of them in a zip lock baggy to keep in the fridge until the day of the party.

This is the greatest advice I got after having twins: Accept Help and Delegate. Use this wisdom for Thanksgiving, along with my bulleted list and enjoy the holiday this year.

5 Ways to Keep up With the Laundry

Laundry is one obligation with which a lot of my clients struggle. As other tasks take first priority, they end up with so much dirty laundry they don't know where to begin. Another problem is the mounds of clean clothes that are folded, or not! Below are 5 simple steps to help you take control of your laundry.

1. Select days to do the laundry – Pick one or two days to do your kids' laundry and another to do your own. Choose a time of day that is more relaxing for you. For example, if you have kids, the best time may be at night when they are (hopefully) asleep. This will allow you time to wash, dry, fold and put away the laundry. Scheduling the time and day(s) helps you get prepared to do laundry. Also, you won't end up with so much laundry you wash your day away.

2. Don't let the dirty laundry bin overflow – If scheduling a time and day isn't enough, make a rule that when the laundry bin is at full, the time is right to wash the clothes. Don't end up with your husband (or yourself) going off to work without clean clothes!

3. Fold clothes in a favorite spot – Most people hate to fold clothes. Maybe it just isn't their cup of tea, or maybe the problem is where the folding is happening– too often we attempt folding clothes in a dark basement with no table, or entertainment, such as our partner or television. Instead of this dismal scenario, take the

laundry to your favorite spot. Fold in front of the television, or in the family room surrounded by your family. When they see how easy it is, they may just offer to help!

4. Put the clothes away immediately to avoid wrinkles and ironing – By scheduling the time and day to do laundry you are less likely to leave clean clothes folded in the basket. Instead, when you are done washing, drying and folding just put them away, RIGHT AWAY. This will help you avoid ironing and having to put stuff back in the dryer to get the wrinkles out that came from your clothes sitting around.

5. Don't worry about sorting colors – Unless you are you are washing something for the first time or bleaching, wash lights and darks together in cold water. I have been mixing laundry for years and have yet to end up with pink underwear! I know it sounds revolutionary, but it can be done and it will save you time sorting and separating every stitch of clothing you own.

Remember these five steps and you will be on your way to less piles and more clean clothes in your closets and drawers.





Conquering Your Hall Closet

them to a consignment shop. Here are a couple of consignment shops:

Eastside: <http://tinyurl.com/yjovyf9>

Westside: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/oh-bella-seattle>

Save the money you earn and put it towards your new closet organizer!

- **Relocate** – Gather your home improvement supplies or other projects and put them in their right place – the garage. If the garage is in organizational chaos as well, make that your next organizing project. Put found items close to the garage entry door so that you don't lose them or forget about your project. They will be there for when you are ready to do your next home improvement task.

- **Organize** – After you have cleared out all the unwanted and misplaced items, it is time to get a new closet organizer. Most closets have just one bar for coats and a shelf on top of that. If you already have a closet organizer in place, you may just need a de-cluttering session. Or you may need a new and improved system. There are three places I recommend for purchasing your closet organizer: Storables, The Container Store, and Ikea.

Be sure to measure the closet before purchasing an organizer.

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With Thanksgiving just around the corner, you probably have a lot of household organizing and cleaning to do before family comes to stay and the guests arrive. The hall closet is one of the most obvious areas that people see when they come into your holiday-ready home. Why not conquer the clutter now and save yourself the embarrassment of the avalanche that pours out every time you open the closet door? Here are a few easy steps to get you on your way to a more streamlined and organized hall closet, with room to spare for those guests coats. Just think, no more dumping them on your bed!

- **De-clutter** – The first step is to go through the closet and get rid of unused or out-of-place items. You will be amazed at how many things shouldn't be housed in that closet. A range of things that don't belong that I have found when organizing a hall closet include home improvement supplies, coats that are never worn, singles (like one glove, one boot, etc...), and shoes that haven't been put on in years.

- **Donate** – Donate those old shoes and any other items that can't be sold.

- **Toss** – Toss those "singles." But be sure to do this at the end of the process, as you may find that second glove shoved at the bottom of the closet and covered in dust!

- **Consign** – If you have coats that are in great shape and still fashionable that you just don't wear anymore take