

IN THIS ISSUE, WE WILL DISCUSS:

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- * MAKING YOUR BEDROOM A TRANQUIL SPACE



ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE!

FALL CLEANING



Embedded in us from an early age is the strong urge to dig in and clean out everything when spring rolls around. We wipe out cupboards, get rid of clothes, and sometimes we even organize our garages! It's such a wonderful feeling that I wonder why we don't do this again in the fall. With the kids back in school, and the weather waning, the fall is the perfect time to tackle the chores that the long summer days built up. Below is a list of things to do for your "fall cleaning"

Clothing and Shoe Swap

Change out summer clothes for fall and winter items. Out of season clothes can go into the guest bedroom, or be swapped out where you store your extra fall and winter clothes. If you keep all of your clothes in one place, put the fall and winter clothes closer to where you walk into your closet. You may find some of the fall and winter clothing is no longer your taste! If this is the case, this is a great time to divide your clothes into keep and giveaway piles, and take a trip to your favorite charity.

Replace your flip flops and sandals in the hall closets with your fall shoes. This is an ideal time to check and see if any of your shoes need to go to the cobbler to get re-soled before the winter months. Maybe some of the summer and fall/winter shoes can go to charity along with your clothing pile. It would also be a good time to take out the spring coats and replace them with the winter coats. While you are doing this, haul out the vacuum. The closet floors are often the most neglected area in the house.

Recharge

Change the batteries in all of you moth repellent gizmos. It would also be an excellent time to refill your Damp rid filters <http://tinyurl.com/3hm9o> -If you don't have the repellent gizmos, the cedar blocks could probably use a replacement (if they stop smelling that is the clue that they are no longer helping keep away moths).



Replace

Replace the batteries in your flashlights. The fall is upon us, which means the occasional power outage. It is no fun to find out the hard way that the batteries are dead!

Prepare for the rain. Purchase new doormats for the front and back door. One season of rain in Seattle and they are toast!

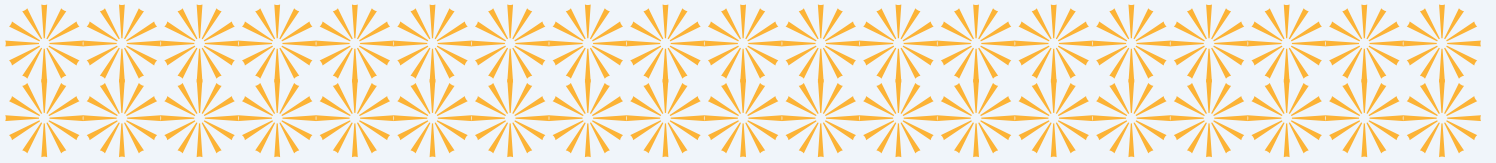
Put away the "old" and take out the "new"

If you're an "on the water" fanatic, put away the boat, the jet skis, the tube, and kayak and bring out the winter sporting goods. The skis will appreciate a new waxing, and some adjusting.

Taking care of your home in the fall will give the house the lift in spirit that you need to prepare it for the rainy winter. It will also give you a sense of calm and preparedness before the holidays start.



ORGANIZING YOUR GUEST BEDROOM/CRAFT ROOM



Usually the guest bedroom is a multi purpose room – a craft/guest room. October is the perfect month for organizing this room. Not only are the guests coming for Thanksgiving, but Halloween is approaching and the need for making costumes is near. That is why it is essential that this room be organized. The list below will help you organize the room area by area.

First, take the time to clear off the floor, then, continue onto the closet.

☼ Closet:

Take everything out onto your nice clean floor. Now that the closet is emptied you can begin deciding what you want to keep and toss or donate. The things that you are keeping should go into piles of likes, such as all of the fabric together. As you start to pull out more and more crafting supplies continue putting likes with likes together, even if they are the exact same thing. For example, you may put tape and glue together or all coloring supplies together if space is an issue. Just for now, place the organized piles into the closet to get them out of the way.

☼ Pick another corner of the room:

Begin sorting that area. This may be a crafting table with drawers, baskets filled with random items, boxes filled with crafting supplies, or some other kind of storage device that is plumb full of crafting items. Continue sorting as you did before. Like with like, things to toss and give away, etc. If you have any other areas in the room to sort do so, if not, this means the first part of the process is done.

☼ Clean up:

Take out the boxes for donation, as well as the trash bags.

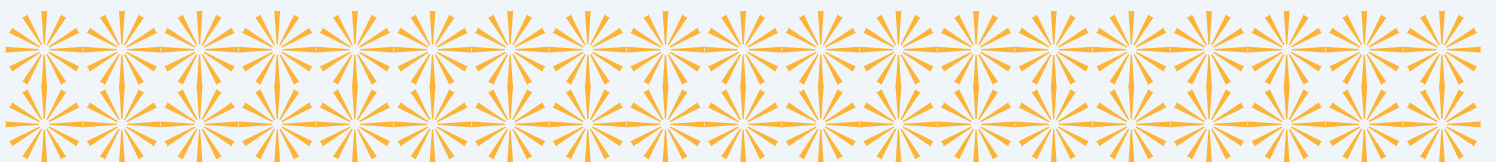
☼ Take stock:

Look at all the piles of items you are keeping and take an inventory. See what you would like to put into the closet. Would you like it to hold only guest items and bedding, or can half of it hold your crafts? Is there room for a piece of storage furniture that can hold all of your crafting supplies? When a guest comes to stay, it is nice if they don't have to look at your stuff, so I suggest getting something that can be stored away for when they come.

☼ Your storage needs:

Don't just buy a system because it is on sale, or you think it might work. Really sit down and think about whether clear bins or just labels would work better for you. Do you have other systems set up in your house that do work, if so what? Can you mimic them with this room? Be sure to keep this in mind when you are shopping for your supplies!

You might consider choosing a storage solution that's mobile, <http://tinyurl.com/lvhj7> so that when you are in the middle of an actual project you can put it away with ease. You will also want to make sure to put your craft supplies away in a matter in which you will be able to keep it up. When you are to the point of purchasing the organizing tools to keep up the newly organized room, really think of what will make you keep the system up and running. Here are another few options. You could purchase a couple of these and stack them or place them side by side, <http://tinyurl.com/r6pmf>. And for heavy duty crafters <http://tinyurl.com/ocpgz>.



MAKING YOUR BEDROOM A TRANQUIL SPACE

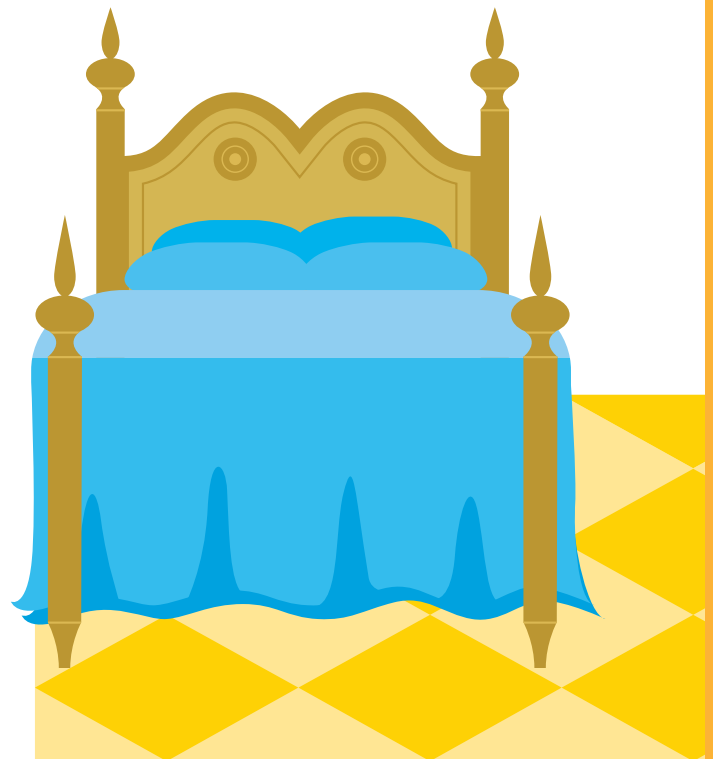
"Creativity is a gift. It doesn't come through if the air is cluttered." ~ John Lennon

Now that you have cleared off your bedside tables (Volume 29, July 2006) to hold a few books, you have created a peaceful atmosphere. Why not take it a step further and organize the rest of your sleeping space. Your bedroom should be a place to come home to at the end of the evening where you can relax and unwind. Your bedroom should be your oasis. Follow these tips below to create a more tranquil and inviting space.

1. Now that the bedside table only holds a few books, you can use to hold a few simple additional items. This is an ideal space to hold your journal, an eye mask to block out light, ear plugs, and a fragrant candle to create a feeling of calm and relaxation.
2. Make sure to keep your clothes in your closet and drawers, not the floor. If you find the latter to be true, two things might be happening: one, you have too many items and need to pare down, or two, you don't have proper storage. You may need a new system for your clothes, see below. Perhaps a new closet system or a good dresser that holds all of your clothes.
3. Try hanging your clothes according to outfits for work, outfits for play, and outfits for special occasions. This will make getting dressed for work and other events much easier. Or try organizing them by type, such as all of your skirts or shirts together. You can also organize your clothes by color, all red items together, etc.
4. Try making your bed after you get up, this will make it look more inviting at the end of the day. In addition, I have a theory that if you make your bed, it will make the bedroom look nicer; this in turn will discourage clutter. When you start to let things go, that is when the clutter monsters start to creep back in. Making your bed everyday is a great incentive to keeping your bedroom organized.

5. Use jewelry dressers/stands
<http://tinyurl.com/m2kwj> or <http://tinyurl.com/pln15> – if you don't have room in your bathroom for jewelry, your bedroom is a great place to store it, just make sure you also have a mirror nearby.
6. Experiment using heavy shades to block out light and noise, you can always use decorative scrims over them for a more decorated effect – this is a great way to get a more restful night's sleep, take a relaxing nap, or sleep in on a lazy day.

To have one room to come home to at the end of the day that is clutter free is a reward in itself. While other rooms in your home may still need organizational help, at least for now your bedroom can be your escape haven at the end of a long and stressful day.



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