

Help! Why can't I stay organized?



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Installing pullouts in cabinets can help you use your space efficiently.

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

Just in time for spring cleaning, I wanted to share some solutions that will help you stay organized and in control of your belongings.

In my experience, there are three key reasons that we have trouble keeping our homes organized – buying too much for your space, not using your space efficiently, and not maintaining your space regularly.

Are you over buying for your space?

One of the key reasons that most people can't stay organized starts outside the home (or on the computer ... hello, Amazon) when you make a purchase. We live in a culture of shopping and we are constantly tempted to buy things. Words like “get it now before it's gone” and “only on sale for 1 more day” create an urgency that we need to buy. It's a great marketing strategy for businesses and it definitely works. Hopefully, you will recognize it for what it is: a way to make you spend money.

I have read that 80% of us are in debt, carry at least three credit cards and a recent survey of teenagers rated their favorite pastime as shop-

ping. More than ever, the things we own end up owning us.

Think before you buy or better yet, buy with intention. Asking yourself a few questions before you make a purchase might help you save money, the landfill, and the harmony in your home: Do I really need this? Do you have another item that will work instead or is this replacing something you already have? Where will I store it? Are my cabinets and drawers already full? Do I have room to put this away? Am I using my home as a warehouse for storage? Am I buying this because it's on sale? (This is the No. 1 reason people purchase items that they do not need or sometimes don't even want. Note: You save 100% on what you do not buy!) Can I afford this? Am I putting this purchase on a credit card? Do I really need to buy in bulk to save a few dollars? I have written about this before, but it's worth repeating. If you do not have the room to store large quantities of items – and the chaos in your home is making you crazy – is it really worth the savings?

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