



# My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

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## Organizing Your Home: Part 1

Over many years of working with designers, organizers, and downsizers we've learned a few things regarding the organizing of one's possessions. Over the next 3 months, we will share with you a variety of ways to organize a variety of areas in your home, from your foyer, to your furnace room and all the spaces in between. We promise you these ideas will help you de-clutter not just your home but your mind as well.

### Motivation

The first step to de-cluttering is coming up with a plan. Don't freak out, yes the job looks monstrous. Yes, there is a lot to do, but don't let that stop you from living the way you want.

### Create a List

Now that you're motivated and ready to go, compile a list of the jobs you are looking to accomplish, begin to prioritize them. Many people start with steam to spare but begin to run out of steam by the end of their plan. So, start with your bigger projects first, because as the old saying goes "strike while the iron's hot."

### It's Shopping Time

Now that you have a list of what you need to tackle, you have a better idea of what you need to keep it organized. Head to the stores or the web and find the things that will keep you organized.

### Where to Donate?

When organizing your house you are bound to come across things you don't use but are still very useable, don't throw them in the trash, donate them. Do some research and find out which charities take what items and where the proceeds from the sale of these items go.

### Disperse the Task

Unless you're living on your own, you likely didn't clutter up your home all by yourself. So you definitely shouldn't be cleaning it up single handedly. This means getting your significant other involved, and don't be afraid to get your kids involved either, heck they make most of the mess anyway.

## **The Enigma of the Entryway/Mudroom**

Now that we are through the planning stage, it is time to get your hand dirty and go straight to the heart of clutter, the entryway. It's the first place guest see when they come in and the first place you kick off your shoes and unload your stuff after a long day at work/school.

### **Mail Mayhem**

We all have a mailbox, and checking it is part of our normal everyday routine, but many people don't have a designated spot for the mail when they come through the door. This creates piles of it all over the place, which can clutter the mind and leave mail unopened. Creating a mail station can be a big help, purchase a few wall mounted file holders/trays to keep your mail in the same spot every time. You can organize them however you chose whether it be by person, or category the options are as bountiful as your imagination.

### **Become a Benchwarmer**

Benches are great in any entryway... if you can find the space. They become a place to put your bag while you take off your coat and, a spot to sit when putting on your shoes. A bench will also make this little transitional area feel more like a room, and make you less likely to toss your bag on ground. To up the anti, look for a bench with storage, this way you will have a space for hats and mitts in the winter and soccer balls and baseballs in the summer, all in just one piece of furniture.

### **Reach for the Sky**

An area that is severely underutilized in most homes is the overhead space. Hanging a few shelves about 16" to 24" from the ceiling with some decorative baskets full of your out of season gear is a great way to store more in a small space and turn your clutter into a design feature.

### **This one is Key**

Key hooks come in all shapes and sizes. Erik made one for his condo out of industrial Velcro and Lego. A friend of ours has one made of bent cutlery. This is a great way to create visual interest in your foyer while also keeping you home organized. For safety purposes make sure your key hooks are not visible from the outside it give intruders a target after all it's a lot easier to steal a car when you have keys.

## **Hook Line and Sinker**

Now that your keys are hanging on hooks, it's time to think about jackets and bags after all we have a lot of weather in Canada, which means many different coats. Now one thing you could do is purchase a free standing coat rack but as my mom would tell you, they generally get covered in clutter. When the hooks on the rack get full people begin to drape their jackets over top of them, creating a weeping willow of jackets, which can get top heavy and eventually topple. The better option in our opinion is adding hooks to your wall. A straight line of evenly spaced hooks will look much cleaner than a coat rack. If you can afford the wall space, you should have 2 coat hooks for each person living in your home, this includes your dog, or cat if you walk them on a leash. Don't be afraid to make your hooks a statement piece either just because it's made for function doesn't mean it can't be fun, in fact Erik has purchased brightly coloured silicon dog butts for his front hall coat hooks.

## **Closet Conundrum**

Closets can get jam packed in a hurry and cleaning it out is a great way to create some storage flexibility in your space. In this section of our "organization boot camp" we are going to go over ways to create space in your closet.

### **The Purge**

The first thing we are going to discuss is the dreaded purge. That's right, get rid of some of it. Many people let the closet fill up with stuff they don't even wear anymore. There are 4 simple questions you need to ask when you are purging. 1) Is it 2 sizes too big or small? If so, let it go! 2) Have I worn it within the year? If no, let it go. 3) Are the clothes ripped, tattered, or worn out? If so, let it go? And finally 4) have you changed careers or retired? If you have and don't need as much professional wear, let it go.

### **Pop Tab Trickery**

Now that you've thrown out and/or donated your extra clothing it's time to maximize the space. This is where pop tabs come in to play. Break it off the pop can and use the tab to hook 2 hangers together saving space on the bar for other organizers.

### **Put it Top Shelf**

Just like high shelves, in your entryway/mudroom a high shelf above your clothes rod is a great place to store seasonal items and clothing. Keeping your seasonal clothing in your closet allows for a seamless transition from winter to summer wear.

## **Categorize, Categorize, Categorize**

Just as the 3 rules of real estate location, location, location, the rule of organizing your closet are categorize, categorize, categorize. Empty your closet and organize your clothing by similar items. Once you have like items together organize them by colour and hang them up. This will allow you to find everything with ease freeing up your mind for more important things.

## **Smart Shoe Solutions**

According to a recent survey the average American person has approximately 19 pairs of shoes, in a house of 4 that would be 76 individual shoes. That's a lot of space, but hopefully through the purge of your closet you managed to donate some of your rarely worn shoes as well.

### **Standard Shoe Storage**

To start, we are going to go simple by adding in an inexpensive wire rack about 6 to 8 inches off the closet floor. This will allow you to put 2 layers of shoes across the bottom of your closet.

### **Hanging Out**

If you still need more storage don't ignore your door. There are many canvas shoe pouches around that can hang from a wall or door. You can also use your new, found clothes rod space to hang a shoe storage system if you so desire.

### **Go Low**

Dust bunnies aren't the only things to hide under the bed anymore. There are also some really innovative shoe storage solutions that you can slide under almost any bed and store dozens of pairs of shoes.

## **Conclusion**

That is all for part 1 of the Organizing Your Home series. We hope you enjoyed it and come back for part 2 next months.