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Your home: Eco-friendly organizing



Brianne Sanchez/Juice photos

After: A quick pantry re-organization takes only minutes and can save a trip to the grocery by showing you what items you already have in your inventory.

:: Smart WorkLife Solutions

Contact: 225.2479, pnw@worklifecoach.com

Find more organizational plans in the "Solutions" section of Woods' Web site: worklifecoach.com.

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Plan on de-cluttering and going green in 2010? Pam Woods, a certified professional organizer, told us how to tackle the messiest spots.

by **brianne sanchez**
juice staff writer

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"You want your home to be that safe, healthy refuge," Woods said. If your third bedroom is a closed-off storage space, your pantry is a jumble of cans, and you trip over shoes, you might want to re-evaluate your organizational system.

Woods said some clutter zones are also points of entry for harmful toxins.

Entry way: Tracking shoes into the house might mean bringing along fertilizers and chemicals from the street. Collecting shoes in a few bamboo baskets in the entryway instead of kicking them off on the couch reduces your exposure to chemicals and eliminates frustrating clutter.

Under the sink: Most households store cleaning materials here. Jamming bottles of Pine-Sol and Fantastic into that tight spot can result in chemical spills that are not only gross, but dangerous. Woods said reorganizing the space under your sink is the perfect time to think about refilling your cupboards with natural, less harmful cleaning products like vinegar.

Pantry: An unorganized pantry wastes time and money — and results in spoiled food. If you can see what's in the pantry, you won't shop for duplicates like you would if you're in a hurry. Keep track of what's in stock with a kitchen chalkboard.

Closet: Woods warns not to bring bags of dry cleaning into your closet right away. If you can, remove the bag and hang the pieces to air out in a ventilated area. Hanging your dress pants in a proper place after you wear them will cut down on the need to dry clean.

Once you've found a place for everything with your organizational system, be conscious of new products you bring into the house. Shopaholics invite disorganization.

"We are incredible consumers," Woods said. "Thinking about the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) we really want to consume less. We want to use what we've got, wear it out and try to make do before we go out and buy new things." Living with a more edited collection will mean less time and energy keeping clutter down.

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