

# Conquer Clutter



**Each half of the newly wed couple will most likely be entering their new home with many items they have acquired through the years. Clutter, in most instances, will be the result - there will be many cherished items and too little obvious space to store them all out of sight.**

Eliminating clutter might be impossible, but containing it doesn't have to be. The first step is to judiciously edit your possessions. Then explore and employ a mix of the many storage solutions available for every room in your home. Free up cabinet space in a small kitchen by incorporating large dumper full-extension drawers that allow you to stack pots and pans on top of one another but still allow easy access to them. Hide televisions and stereo equipment in floor-to-ceiling built-in cabinets in the family room. Stow books and accessories on a tiered

table in the bedroom. Store folded towels on multi-level shelves in the bathroom. You can build in closets or cabinets, install shelves or cubbies, integrate drawers beneath window seats or beds, slide baskets under benches, beds or chairs, use multiple pegs behind bathroom and bedroom doors to keep clothing off the floor and hidden well from plain sight. The options are endless and the payoff is the peace of mind that order brings. See the following tips which you can employ to serve as additional storage options to help keep your life in order.

Consider building floor-to-ceiling cabinets and shelves in every room possible. Think vertical and use every inch of wall space. When planning try and determine actual linear feet required for books, magazines, china, linens, clothes, shoes and then add 10 percent for future growth.

In bathrooms and closets to gain space, carve out four-to-seven inch deep niches for medicine cabinets, open shelves and toiletries and toilet paper holders so that they sit flush into the walls rather than projecting from them.

If you love books and have many - then double-stack them on shelves and even stack many on the floor to create fun and original makeshift side tables with a lamp for the perfect reading area.

Invest in interesting leather or fabric covered boxes to be used in any room to house relevant items and stack them in multiples to create functional tables or even seating.

Store your seldom used clothing that you only use when travelling in your luggage so that they don't consume precious closet space for your daily wear.

In the bedroom, build a fold-down

headboard with hidden storage for books, reading glasses, television remotes and entertainment gear like DVDs or electronics. Use bedside tables with tiers or drawers that allow for maximum storage use and try to not display photos or ornaments as these should be free and clear for functional use.

Make use of your closet doors by fitting them with full length mirrors - not only is this functional but also will make the space feel larger. In addition you can also create shoe racks and/or hooks for hanging clothing or for hanging jewellery and handbags and hats.

However you plan your storage, remember to be ruthless about editing and eliminating items, try to schedule it as an event four times per year. That is the overriding essential key to conquering clutter and harmonious orderly living.