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NEAT SPACES EZINE - OCTOBER 2010

Brought to you by Wendy Hollick, Professional Organizer

COMPANY'S COMING!

Wasn't that a great summer? With such fabulous weather, I hope you got to enjoy lots of backyard time with your friends and family. Now that cooler days are here, it's time to move the party indoors - but what will you do about all that clutter?

Follow these steps, and your house will be shipshape in time for Thanksgiving!

Deal with the Doorway

I've found that both children and adults have a habit of just dropping stuff as soon as they come in: shoes, jackets, backpacks, keys, mail, you name it. You get used to it when you see it every day, but it doesn't make a very inviting first impression when people come over.

Install hooks and shelves that are low enough for children to reach, and create a space for storing keys and other small items that's close by, but not right at the front door. When you set up a system that's easy for everyone in the family to use, you can eliminate doorway clutter once and for all.

Free the Fridge

Trying to figure out where to put the special food and drinks you bought for your get-together? I bet if you look in your fridge, you'll find a few nearly empty jars as well as stuff that is either on its last legs or will be before anyone gets around to eating it. Once you get rid of those, you should have plenty of room!

Part with the Paper

Go around each room and gather up pizza boxes, newspapers, flyers, and other paper. If you're finished with it, or if it never deserved a spot in your home to begin with, into the blue box it goes!

Tidy the Toys

I know how hard it is to keep your house neat when you have little ones who just drop what they're playing with when something else strikes their fancy. Grab a box and do a walk-around, picking up any toys that may be scattered throughout your living area, and place the box where it won't be in the way of your guests.

The same goes for grown-up toys: iPods, video games, Sudoku books, etc. Even though they don't take up much space, there's no need to keep them lying around.

Manage the Mess

Develop the habit of following the above steps every day (or at least every week) to keep your home neat and tidy. It will only take a few minutes, and you won't have to panic when you find out that company's coming!



Downsizing Tip

A smaller home means less space and a greater need for creative storage solutions. Small shelving units that can sit on top of closet shelves, and storage containers that can easily slide under the bed, are some of the products designed to allow you to use space that would otherwise go to waste.

October Special

[NEAT SPACES Professional Organizing Service](#) and **[boomers 2 zoomers inc.](#)** are ready to help you with your fall organizing and relocation projects. Please **[email me](#)** to inquire about our October Special!

I hope you enjoyed this issue of the NEAT SPACES EZINE. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues.

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