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NEAT SPACES EZINE JANUARY 2007

Brought to you by Wendy Hollick, Professional Organizer

THIS MONTH: ORGANIZING FOR THE NEW YEAR

The second most popular **New Year Resolution**, running just behind losing weight, is getting organized ...ok so I want to do that too, but this is about organizing, not weight loss.



Getting organized... Where to begin? That famous question.

Make a list of what you would like to see less cluttered and better organized. Start with one area, whether that is your kitchen, your home office, your office at work or even in your vehicle. Pick one. When that one space has been completed then move on to priority #2 on your list and so on.

Top 10 Organizing Resolutions for the New Year.

1. **Have less "stuff" coming in** - do you really need all those magazine and newspaper subscriptions? Opt for receiving bills online. Just because an article is on sale, does not mean you have to have it. Too much of any item regardless of the price leads to clutter.
2. **Everything in its place and a place for everything** - it is true, incoming mail, bills, statements, hair clips, dog leashes. When an item has a home, it is much easier to put it away where it belongs then to toss it into the "junk" drawer, "junk" cupboard, "junk" area in the garage... Ok, you get the picture.
3. **Containerize** - but be careful. Everything looks so darn cute in the store doesn't it?! All those pretty colours and shapes. Consider what you need the container for and buy accordingly. Unused containers lead to clutter too. Organizing can be fun by using colour schemes and textured bins and baskets. Be creative.
4. **Purge** - on a regular basis. Let me clarify. I mean your stuff, your extra clothes, shoes, kitchen gadgets, toys, books, tools etc. One new in, one old out. It works. (For a list of donation centres, please email me.)
5. **Learn to say NO! thanks** - hand me downs, which are much appreciated if needed, can very quickly overwhelm any home.
6. **Just the money!** - ok sounds impersonal, but not really if you think about it. Cash Cards are increasing in popularity, especially for teens and hard to buy for people. It's not impersonal, it's thoughtful and clutterless.
7. **Saving for others** - "I thought you might like this". Like you, they might not want to say NO! Thanks but no thanks. Help others by donating usable items to a charity of your choice.
8. **I need to go home** - we all seem to have other people's stuff in our homes. We don't



seem to have enough room for our own stuff and now we have other people's stuff too-yikes! Make a spot in your home or garage where you place items that need to be returned so you remember to give them back. When you see that person next put the item by the door so you won't forget.

9. **Makin' a list** - lists are good things, but they must be realistic. For daily lists, write down what you can realistically can get done that day. Check off what gets done as you go. It feels good to cross off what we have completed. Carry over what you didn't complete to the next day and so on. By the end of the week, all "to do's" are done. Then toss the list. For large projects, home maintenance etc., the same applies. Prioritize and discuss with those that will be pitching in. Cross off chores as they are completed. Voila, before you know it, you're done. Well done!
10. **Simplify** - reducing clutter reduces stress! I can't think of a better reason to simplify your life! Try it, it works!

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.
~Oprah Winfrey.

*******I would like to offer all of you the Schulte closet organizing system on sale 15 - 30% off through to February 18th, 2007. NEAT SPACES offers closet designing, installation and organizing services. Book your consultation now, to take advantage of the sale prices.**

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

If there are topics you would like to read about in future issues, please let me know!

Coming soon: MABEL'S LABELS. Details to follow.

Yours in organization,

~Wendy Hollick
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