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GRAND ENTRANCE

Notorious for being a dumping zone as everyone heads into and out of the house, entranceways can be tricky to keep tidy. A few simple space-saving tricks will have this much-used area in tip-top shape.



CLEVER WAYS TO CORRAL YOUR CLUTTER

Our very best time- (and sanity-) saving home-organization ideas for kitchens, laundry rooms, home offices and more, including tips from four of Canada's expert organizers!

BY SARAH GUNN

EXPERT ADVICE



The entranceway is one of the most used and most neglected areas in a home. To make things easier at the end of a busy day, provide each member of the family with a space for their gear. Use bins to store such small items as hats, mittens and scarves. Have a file by the door to hold any mail, instead of just dumping it when you come in. Putting a simple system in place will make it much easier to stay organized.

— Rachael Stafford, Professional Organizers in Canada, Toronto



Hide and seek

No entranceway closet? No problem. A wardrobe with a combination of hanging and drawer storage keeps essentials, such as coats, sweaters and scarves, organized behind closed doors. Plus, open storage offers easy access to everyday items. Use containers in various sizes to group articles by category.

1 Stand tall

Add function and make a stylish statement with a patterned umbrella stand that houses other upright items, such as yoga mats and shoehorns, too.

2 Take a seat

A place to perch by the front door provides a convenient spot to slip

shoes and boots on and off. Choose a stylish chair instead of a bulky bench to keep the space from looking too crowded.

3 Coat check

Set the tone for your home right from the front door. To ensure that coats and accessories are immediately hung up instead of thrown on

the floor, mount hooks at various levels to make them accessible to everyone, no matter how small. Source hooks with multiple pegs to accommodate more items, but don't go overboard.

4 Under foot

Designate a spot for shoes to dry—in this case, an oversize

vintage silver serving tray. Don't worry about it being too fancy for footwear; a tray like this will only get more beautiful with age, but to prolong its shelf life and to catch water and dirt, place an absorbent mat (try a ribbed rubber or synthetic fibre, such as olefin or polypropylene) on top.



Nordli wardrobe, \$329, ikea.ca.



Turbio hook, \$30, anthropologie.com.



Porcelain umbrella stand, \$120, staples.ca.



Sidera chair, \$399, cb2.com.

GET THE LOOK

EXPERT ADVICE



The biggest advantage in a kitchen is accessibility, yet the most common blind spots I see are cabinet shelves that are too high and wasted space between shelves. Whether you've just moved in or you've settled into a kitchen, it's worth the time to adjust shelving to fit the contents and to lower shelves so you can reach what you need. After adjusting the height, you can often add an extra shelf to accommodate wide narrow items, like trays. — Marie Potter, Professional Organizers in Canada, Vancouver



EAT CLEAN

The kitchen probably has the most traffic in your home, which means it can also be the messiest. Keep your counters and cabinets clutter-free with these clever storage ideas.

1 Looking good

Display your pretty serving pieces on open shelves and use decorative baskets to house the less attractive and infrequently used kitchen necessities (think small appliances and tools).

2 Mix it up

Varied storage

keeps items of different sizes in their place: deep drawers for medium-to-large appliances, stacked shelving for wine bottles and shallow drawers for spices.

3 Within reach

Keep the items you need most, such as cereal and snacks, between

waist and eye level, and move the rest of the goods up high or down low.

4 All access

A pull-out pantry allows you to see inventory at a glance and helps keep supplies organized so that nothing gets pushed to the back and out of view.

5 Now you see it

Cabinets that are tucked behind a sliding door will provide a functional space-saving solution to a typical pantry. This storage system can be built along an unused wall in a kitchen. Use it to conceal mismatched boxes, jars and canned goods.



Beach house bins, \$26 to \$31, containerstore.com.



Zippered Mason jar bags, \$5 per set of four, kikkerland.com.



Cage wall clock, \$80, umbra.com.



Bloomingville ceramic jars, \$62 per pair, wayfair.ca.

GET THE LOOK



Shelf life

Adjust shelf heights to suit your storage needs and avoid wasted space.

1 Command centre

Nail clipboards to the wall and use them to manage work projects or to keep paperwork for everyone in your family organized.

2 File maker

Eliminate desk clutter and give important documents a place to land by using easy-to-access vertical filing systems and wire baskets.

3 Go vertical

Keep your desk

clear—and all of your inspiration in full view—by hanging an oversize corkboard above your desk.

4 Dreamy drawers

Tuck a filing cabinet under a wraparound desk to keep your office supplies and paperwork neat and tidy. Insert a plastic divider or place several small boxes inside the top drawers, and add a hanging-file system to the bottom one.



WORK IT

A chaotic office can lead to a cluttered mind. Whether you use the room to run a business or to get crafty, these solutions will outfit your workspace for success.

EXPERT ADVICE



Create a system that involves a recycling bin for things you no longer need, a file for items that need to be mailed, filled out or paid, and a sturdy plastic banker's box to store papers you'll need in the future, like tax and legal documents.

— Jane Veldhoven, Professional Organizers in Canada, Halifax

GET THE LOOK



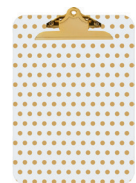
Alex drawer unit, \$80, ikea.ca.



Webster's Pages paper clip set, \$12, indigo.ca.



Play Ball catchall, \$32, uncommongoods.com.



Merangue fashion clipboard, \$6, staples.ca.



WASH AND GO

Laundry day doesn't have to be a chore with these simple steps to an efficient space.

1 Double duty
To make this space work harder, use it as a utility room to store household essentials such as toilet paper and paper towels. Remove items from packaging, then place them in baskets. The uniform look is tidier, and it makes

everything more accessible.

2 Hang on
Walls are often underutilized when it comes to storage, but they're a great place to stash cleaning supplies when floor space is at a premium. Thread twine or a leather lace through the

hole on a broom's or mop's handle, then tie the loop securely. Hang the loops on hooks that work with the room's style; here, rustic metal adds charm and patina. (Make sure all items are thoroughly cleaned before putting them back in their place!)

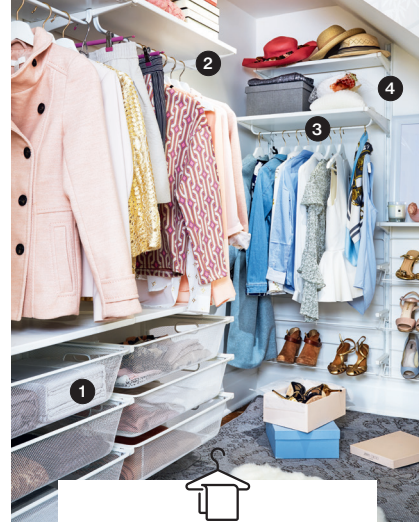
EXPERT ADVICE



If you have room, assign different laundry hampers for each category of dirty items, such as whites, darks and linens. Bins with three sections in one system are a great tool for small spaces.

— Susan Macaulay, Professional Organizers in Canada, Winnipeg

3 Out to dry
A spot for hanging clothes to dry is a must. Make the most of every inch and gain counter space without sacrificing floor or wall real estate by tucking a permanent or pressure-mounted rod under the counter and stocking it with sturdy hangers.



HANG TIME

Conquer your closet with clever tips that will allow you to add to your shoe collection without losing your mind.

GET THE LOOK



Trinket earring tree, \$18, umbra.com.



Bronze Classico scarf organizer, \$9, containerstore.com.

1 Sliding drawers
Multiple open-face pull-out drawers help compartmentalize items based on season and style, making it easier to keep folded items in check without them spilling over.

2 Custom order
Install an adjustable closet system that allows for modifications (hanging height, shelving and drawer space) and includes a shoe system.

3 Group therapy
To give your closet an orderly appearance, use one style of hangers. Also, group clothing by category, like colour or style.

4 Reach for the top
Rotate wardrobe staples seasonally and designate top-shelf storage for rarely used or off-season pieces. Use up-to-the-ceiling shelves to maximize space and discourage boxes from pooling on the ground.

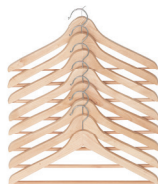
GET THE LOOK



Hedgehog dryer buddies, \$10, kikkerland.com.



Wenko Trivio three-compartment laundry bins, \$80 each, bedbathandbeyond.ca.



Bumerang hangers, \$6 per set of eight, ikea.ca.