

Pro Organizers' Best Decluttering Tips

Armed with expert advice and a few foolproof solutions, the odds of conquering clutter have never been better.

By Katie Holdefehr

The Entryway

Scrolling through the [Instagram account](#) of Nashville-based home organizing company [The Home Edit](#) has us dreaming of neatly organized kitchen drawers and color-coded toy bins. So when we wanted expert advice on tackling the messiest areas around the house, we knew [The Home Edit](#) founders, Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin, would have some stylish solutions up their sleeves.

The first clutter zone to conquer: the entryway. As the entrance to your home, it's a drop zone for mail and shoes, but since this area is also the first spot visitors see, it should make a good impression. To corral the chaos, [The Home Edit](#) team reaches for baskets. "If you have the space, give each family member their own basket. Alternatively, a divided basket helps store everyone's items while separating them at the same time," Shearer says. Tucked beneath a bench or console, they



The Home Edit

contain the mess while keeping up appearances.

Pro Supplies: The Best Baskets

Seagrass Extra Large Storage Basket

The Home Edit team loves this large seagrass basket for stashing everything from toys to throw blankets. Buy a few and task each one with storing a different entryway essential.

To buy: \$40; [target.com](https://www.target.com).



Savannah Recycling Bin

The divided sections in this rolling seagrass bin were designed to sort glass, paper, and plastic, but they work just as well separating shoes, scarves, and umbrellas in the foyer.

To buy: \$99; [potterybarn.com](https://www.potterybarn.com).

Aubrey Woven Lidded Basket

If you'd prefer to store your clutter out of sight, these lidded baskets will keep it concealed.

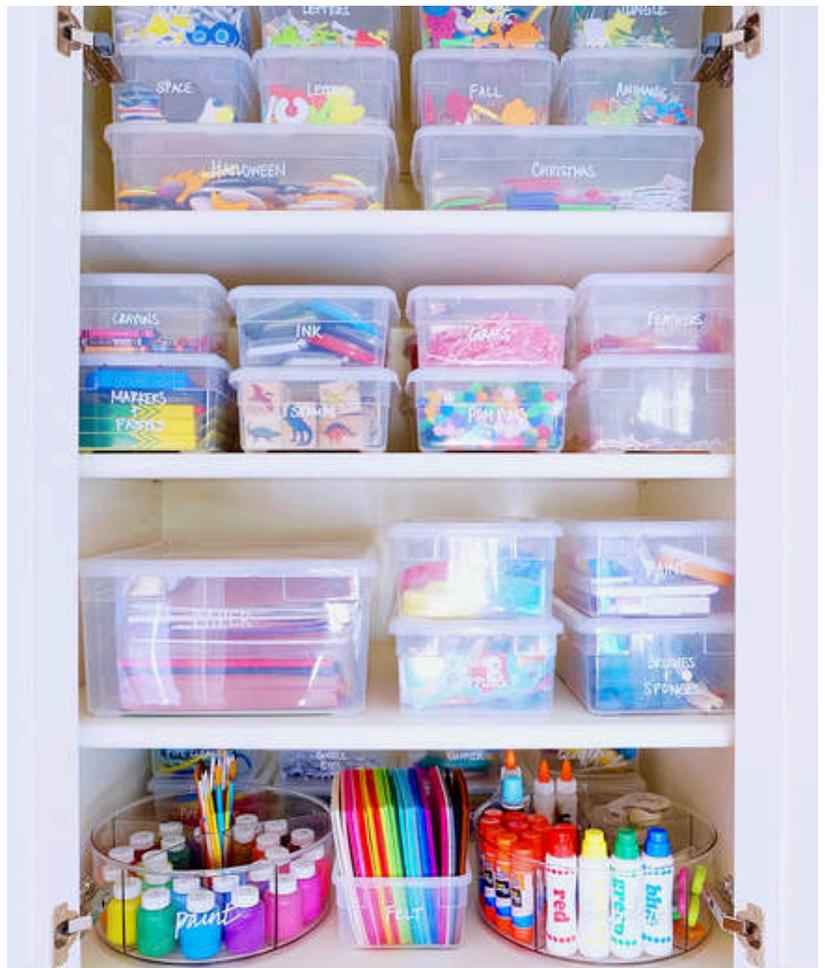
To buy: From \$69; [potterybarn.com](https://www.potterybarn.com).

target.com

Creative spaces are notoriously messy, so it's no wonder craft rooms seem impossible to keep tidy. [The Home Edit's](#) trick for

The Craft Room

organizing this space? Divide and conquer. “Keeping the categories divided and contained is the only way to prevent craft chaos,” Shearer says. “We like to use clear storage such as shoe boxes and turntables so that you can easily spot the items you’re looking to use,” she explains. With everything in view, colorful supplies, like paints and markers, double as decor. Use paint markers to label each bin, and you’ll never waste time searching for a pair of scissors again.



The Home Edit

Our Shoe Box

When looking for transparent bins, nothing beats The Container Store’s stackable clear plastic shoe boxes and [accessories boxes](#). When they’re not busy corralling crayons, these bins can get in on the fun by holding dye baths or the latest slime recipe ([here’s our favorite!](#)).

To buy: \$2 each; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com).

Clear Linus Divided Lazy Susan

Don’t let the name fool you—this lazy Susan is incredibly hard-working. An expert multitasker, this revolving catchall is ideal for

Pro Supplies: See-Through Storage

storing markers, glue sticks, and small paint tubes.

To buy: From \$17; containerstore.com.



thecontainerstore.com

When it finally comes time for you to tackle closet clutter and you're staring down a mountain of clothing, it can be hard to know where to begin. The Home Edit's approach is to focus on the small details that make a difference. "Good hangers make the closet! They create a streamlined look and allow you to maximize your hanging space," Shearer says. For many, clothing hangers are an afterthought (those wire ones from the dry cleaner are fine, right?), but an affordable buy that keeps your clothing wrinkle-free and makes every morning go a little more smoothly is worth the small investment.

The Bedroom Closet



The Home Edit

Huggable Hangers

The thin silhouette of these hangers lets you squeeze even more shirts and dresses into an already-crammed closet. A no-slip surface means you can hang up camisoles without them winding up on the floor.

To buy: \$9; [target.com](https://www.target.com).

Short Storage Cube

The Home Edit turns to fabric bins when they have pieces they not only want to organize, but also protect from damage. This short (just 6 inches tall) container is sized for holding handbags or clutches.

To

Pro Supplies

buy: \$6; [target.com](https://www.target.com).



target.com

The home office is infamous for paper pile-ups, and once you have a huge stack, attempting to tackle it can be intimidating. “A home office is a perfect place to store everything from files to family photos—but picking the right storage containers is key,” Shearer explains. With a bin or basket devoted to each item (one for tax forms, another for bills), you can avoid ever having to sort through a towering stack. When it comes time to pay the electricity bill or look at your retirement investments, you can pull out the appropriate container to find everything you need. Labels and color-coding help you

The Office

quickly spot the files you're looking for.



The Home Edit

Rainbow 4-Drawer Units

This drawer unit has pretty color-coding built right in. The grid at the top of each unit lets you stack several.

To buy: \$40; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com).

Undershelf Basket

The smartest way to maximize space in your office closet: Hook on an under-shelf basket. Let each one catch the overflow of papers and file folders from the bin above. Your closet is hiding more space than you thought.

To buy: From \$7; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com).

Pro Supplies

Desktop Storage Unit

To collect desk essentials, nothing beats a coordinated set of trays, bins, and cups. The combination of wood and white containers lends your desk a clean, minimalist look that says you've got it all together.

To buy: \$15; [target.com](https://www.target.com).



thecontainerstore.com

Based on the philosophy that “everything needs a place,” the D.C.-based home organizing firm [Rachel and Company](#) is well-versed in finding the right clutter busters for the right spot. Its founder, Rachel Rosenthal, says she jumped into organization after having two kids and, 9 years after starting the firm, there’s no space she can’t organize. And as her [Instagram account](#) proves, she does it all in style.

The pantry is a trouble spot for many, but Rosenthal breaks down the pantry organizing process into simple steps. “Start by pulling

The Pantry

everything out and getting an inventory of what you have. Discard any expired food or items that you or your family no longer eat, and then create categories based on types of food,” she advises. Once you have the goods pared down, you can pull in organizers to separate items by category. Juice boxes in one bin, snack packs in another.



Rachel and Company

Countertop Copper Lazy Susan

“Use turntables in awkward corners or to store oils and condiments that are otherwise difficult to contain,” Rosenthal recommends. Plus, this stunning copper option has to be one of the prettiest turntables we’ve ever seen. The best part: Measuring just a little over 8 inches, it won’t take up much shelf space in your pantry.

To buy: \$24; williams-sonoma.com.

Pro Supplies



williams-sonoma.com

“Makeup is an area where it’s very helpful to be as organized as possible to make getting ready in the morning (or before a night out) easier,” Rosenthal says. Again, she turns to dividers to separate out items. If you have a large makeup stash, categorize by item so that mascaras, eye shadows, and lip glosses all live in their own area. If your collection is smaller, you may prefer to group by type, such as lips, eyes, and nails, so that a variety of products are stored in each section. Either way, you’ll know exactly where each product is—and get out the door faster.

Makeup



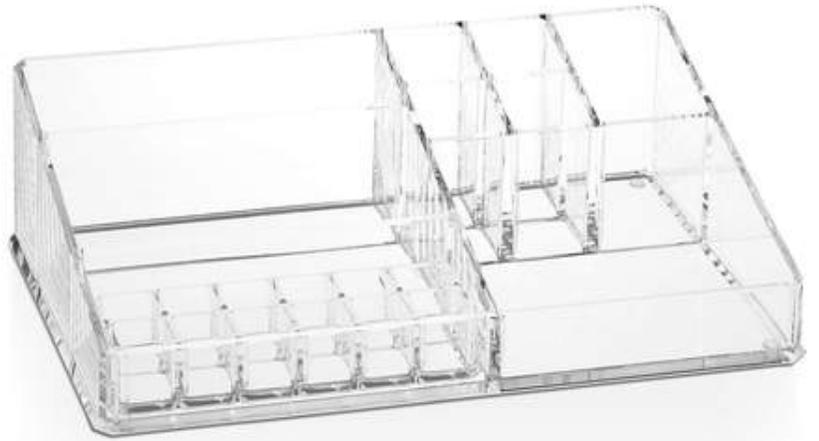
Rachel and Company

Honey Can Do Makeup Organizer

Rosenthal's top tip for makeup organization? Keep it visible. "By keeping your options visible and accessible, you will be more inclined to rotate through your options rather than continually grab the first tube of mascara that's sitting at the top of your makeup bag," she says. This transparent organizer (complete with a 12-compartment lipstick holder) may just inspire you to try that [blue lipstick](#) you've never tested out.

To buy: \$54; bloomingdales.com.

Pro Supplies



bloomingdales.com

If that bottle of cough medicine you bought last winter is stored in the same bin as the vitamins you pop every morning, Rosenthal has the secret to solving your medicine cabinet clutter. “Keep daily medications and vitamins stored separately from the other medicine cabinet contents. Chances are that your collection of first aid products and cold medicine don’t get accessed nearly as frequently as your vitamin C, so don’t give them priority space in your cabinet or medicine drawer,” she explains. By leaving daily pills front and center, and relegating the rest to the back of the cabinet or hiding them

The Medicine Cabinet

inside storage boxes, you can save yourself a little time every day.



Rachel and Company

White Nordic Storage Basket with Handles

These stackable containers will hold even the largest medication collection—and look good while doing it. The optional dry-erase labels let you assign each one a category and make it easy to change them over time. The medicine cabinet likely isn't a spot you show off to guests, but once it's filled with these Scandinavian-inspired bins, you may just be tempted to brag a bit.

To buy: From \$7; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com).

Pro Supplies



thecontainerstore.com

Another trouble spot Rachel and Company's clients often ask for help with is their kids' arts and crafts zones. Naturally, you want to encourage their creativity, but how do you possibly contain all the paint and glitter? "The key to creating successful systems for children is taking out the guesswork," Rosenthal advises. Choose clear bins that let them see where each item belongs, because if they have to peek inside each bin to locate a crayon's home, it's more likely to end up thrown on the floor. Easy-to-read labels will help direct older children, or task non-readers with drawing each item on adhesive labels. Kids will be

Kids' Arts and Crafts Supplies

more likely to follow a system they helped design themselves.



Rachel and Company

I Could've Bin a Bright Pink Art Caddy

A tidy art table starts with a handy supplies caddy. Each compartment was designed for holding pens, markers, paintbrushes, and more. The handle at the top makes it easy to take a project into another room or outside for a coloring session. Let your kids choose from the five available colors, just don't be surprised if they each want one in their favorite hue.

To buy: \$22; landofnod.com.

Pro Supplies

