

Organize Your Home and Get Ready for Spring

As an interior designer every day I see how important it is to have an organized home. It helps us to enjoy the beautiful design in the home and approach our busy lives with a state of mental calm. So for this column I thought it would be great to focus on getting organized in time for spring.

I asked award-winning Main Line professional organizer and owner of Carrie's Essential Services, Carrie Kauffman for her tips and here's her helpful advice..

Carrie's Top 5 Organizing Tips To Spring Ready Your Home

Something about Spring's arrival that is so motivating! Windows open, fresh air flowing through the house, kids outside...

Of course, as a professional organizer, I know exactly what needs to be done to get my house Spring-ready! These are things that I do year in & year out at the start of a new season. The key is to get into the habit of keeping things organized year-round and these tasks will be a breeze.

Get your home Spring-Ready with my Top 5 Organizing Tips:

1.) COMMIT TO THE HALL CLOSET CHANGEOVER

Your hall closet is ready to breathe again! It's been overstuffed & bursting at the seams all winter! Out with the bulky winter coats & snow clothes, in with trenches, rain gear & light spring jackets. Evaluate your winter gear (keep, toss, donate) and wash, dry-clean anything you are going to use again next year. Move everything that is now out of season to another closet or, if you are strapped for space, make sure you put them on the far side of your hall closet.

Carrie's Essential Winter Wear Tip: Accessories passed their prime? Won't make it another season? BUY NOW, for next year, to take advantage of winter closeout sales.

2.) DON'T SKIP THE CLOTHING DECLUTTER, ESPECIALLY IN KIDS ROOMS

The first thing I do at the start of a new season is go through my family's clothing & determine what goes where (keep, toss, donate). Take the time to declutter. Avoid those "Mom, I don't have any pants that fit" moments. Know what you have and what you need. Pack up winter clothing, put in storage for next year and bring in spring clothing, accessories, shoes, etc.

Carrie's Essential Closet Decluttering Tip: Ask yourself these questions to decide whether an items should stay or go: ***Does this fit? Have I worn it in the last 12***

months? Is it in style? Does it bring me joy?

3.) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPRING KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALES

Local consignment sales are a great way to make some quick cash on gently used clothing that you are ready to pass along. Consignors often receive perks such as access to pre-sale events & reduced pricing. Make a list of what each child needs, with sizes. Great, low-cost way to fresh up your child's closet for Spring!

Carrie's Essential Consignment Sale Tip...If you are in the market for shoes, trace your child's current size on a piece of paper & cut it out. Then take the list you just made & write it on the shoe cutout so you can minimize your paper & keep your list handy & organized.

4.) STREAMLINE YOUR KITCHEN

The key to great kitchen organization is accessibility & flow. Make sure all of your appliances, utensils & kitchen accessories have a purpose & a designated home. The keep, toss, donate rule applies in the kitchen as well. Have a family member just starting out? Send them some items you no longer need that they could use. If you entertain frequently, you may have accumulated many items over the winter. This includes serving pieces and alcohol. Donate anything you do not need/want or make a plan to use...Spring BBQ, anyone? Spring means getting outside more often. Take out the items you only use in the summer & make them more easily accessible...ahem, margarita mixer, glasses & pitchers, I'm looking at you....

Carrie's Essential Kitchen Tip: Make sure you store items close to where you will use them, keeping the items you use the most, within arm's reach. Coffee mugs by the coffee maker and so on.

5.) OPEN UP & CLEAN OUT THAT GARAGE

Spring weather means a return to outdoor living! Time to declutter that garage to have access to sports equipment, gardening supplies, outdoor furniture, etc....Give it a good deep clean and declutter – you guessed it, keep, toss, donate – anything that is broken or no longer of use. Prep those outdoor spaces! Bring out those colorful planters and outdoor furniture/accessories that you've been storing.

Carrie's Essential Garage Tip: Use your wall space for large items; use hooks to hang bikes/beach chairs & shelving for coolers. Use peg boards to organize your tool bench so that you have quick access to what you need.

Remember, organizing your home is an ongoing process. Get the whole family involved, keep a list of projects & work through it. If you make it a priority throughout the year, it won't seem like heavy lifting at the start of each season!

Happy Spring & Happy Organizing!

About Carrie Kauffman

Carrie Kauffman is an award winning professional organizer, member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, Greater Philadelphia Chapter (NAPO-GPC) and owner of **Carrie's Essential Services, LLC**. Carrie Kauffman provides organizing services, in homes & offices, on the Main Line and surrounding communities. **Carrie's Essential Services** specializes in moving & packing, preparing homes for sale, office setup including filing systems as well as general organizing & de-cluttering.
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About Larina Kase

Larina Kase is the founder of Larina Kase Interior Design, a full service boutique firm serving the Main Line. Winner of Freshome's Best Interior Designers in Philadelphia 2016 and Best of Houzz 2017 in both Service and Design, Larina and her team are dedicated to helping their clients have comfortable, functional, and beautiful homes. Please view her work and services at LarinaKase.com