

Resolutions: small patterns, big possibilities

Number One Rule, have [the proper place](#) for everything. Yes, everything. If you don't have a place, create a place or get rid of something to create a place. And, before you buy something, think "do I have a place for this to go?"



Keep "like with like." Store all of the same type of item(s) in the same area. Baking items together, electronic cords together, books together, files together, crafts together. Get it?

Store it where you use it. If you sort mail in the front entry, have a file and trash can in the front entry. If you read magazines on the couch, have a magazine rack near your favorite chair.

If you doubt, throw it out (or give it away). We hold on to so many things we don't need because we think we may use it again. If you haven't used it in 1-2 years, get rid of it. Someone else could [benefit from the donation](#).

Turn over your wardrobe. Turn your hangers backwards at the beginning of the season and as you wear the items, re-hang facing forward. The clothes that are still turned around at the end of the season are the ones to get rid of. (FYI - great way to "trick" your husband and proving that he doesn't wear everything in his closet) We only wear 30% of what's in our closet anyway.

Keep it consistent for younger children. Color code drawers, calendars, baskets, towel hooks, etc. Teach them young and they will learn.

Find a calendar that works best for you. If [electronic](#) doesn't work well for you, stick with [a paper one](#). Have your calendar open or electronically shared for the family to see. Even put your meals on the calendar and refer kids to the calendar when they ask "what's for dinner?!?"

Break small tasks into more manageable ones. If you have a large home, don't attempt to clean the whole house in one day. Dust on Tuesdays and vacuum on Wednesdays or take one room at a time. We don't get things done, because we are overwhelmed before even starting.

Set a timer. See how much [you can get done in 25 minutes](#). You'll be amazed at how much you get accomplished and how much more you stay on task.

Fold laundry between every load. AND put it all away before the day is over. An assigned day or two of the week is suggested so everyone in the family is on the same page for expectations.

Ultimately, do what works best for you. Don't try to keep up with the Jones'. Be confident in the way you manage your life. But if you aren't managing and just surviving, then [take action](#).

Be open to new Possibilities:

Keep your [lists on your phone](#) (you always have your phone with you!)

Clean and cut veggies when you buy them. Then they are ready to go at meal time.

Don't pile it, file it. Create a [simple filing system](#).

Unsubscribe from magazines or emails you don't read, or get an electronic subscription.

Throw out the junk mail before you set the stack down (everyday!).

Avoid impulse buying by shopping online ([Amazon Prime](#) is an amazing investment!)

Pick out clothes the night before, Make lunches the night before.

Label cords when you buy them. Discard the cord when the electronic breaks.

Tape extra screws that come with furniture under it, so you have them when you need them.

Whoever uses it, puts it away.

Take a photo of the child with the project and dump the project.

Clear counter=Clear Mind

Create a [file box for each child](#) to store their keep sakes. Keeps you organized and teaches them the value of what's important.

Just get started. It doesn't have to be perfect.

Most importantly: Take time to declutter your mind. Mentally you need to rest. Take at least 10 minutes a day to just sit and be still. It will pay dividends for the rest of your schedule. Physical Clutter is Emotional Clutter. You must have [room to breathe](#).

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