

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

*De-Cluttering
Divas
Newsletter*

Vol. II

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Welcome to the De-cluttering Diva Newsletter! *Divas—
Latin for Goddess!*

It's suppose to be spring, but as I write this we are waiting for more cold weather to move into our area. I did use the brief hours we had of warmer temperatures to cart several items I had accumulated at the rear entrance of my house out to the storage building. You pretty much have to do these kind of things during warm weather , but not TOO warm! Let's hope April warms up quickly and we can get on with the straightening and sorting!



Tackling the Clutter

- What mess bothers you the most?
- Why does it bother you? List those things.
- What prevents you from tackling the problem?
- What would it take to fix it?
- What's your timeline? Make one!
- How would you reward yourself for doing this task?

Sorting, tossing and tidying up can save time and money!

In these uncertain economic times saving money for everybody becomes important. Before, missing a bill deadline and paying the finance charge might have been bearable, but now every dollar counts, so why not use economics as your best motivation to get organized and de-clutter!

Forget about buying containers—organize first, then evaluate your storage needs and purchase containers if needed.

Have a yard sale! Use the money toward something fun for the whole family.



When you start to organize, remember to recycle!

\$ Reusing is recycling! Do you have a space you can work on fixing things? A workshop? Does your workshop space need to be de-cluttered? This might be one of the best spots for starting your decluttering—when it's usable, you can recycle and reuse so many things you fix! When your work space is organized, it's much easier and better for the environment to try to repair than to throw away. And think of the money you save!

Tips on how to feel a little bit more organized!

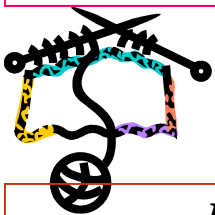
-Consider each family member. Describe their work, needs, hobbies, pets, activities, and possessions. Are they savers or do they tend to throw away on a regular basis?

-Pull out all possessions from closets, cupboards and drawers so you will be aware of all the items you want to store. Do this closet by closet and room by room as time is available. This is a good time to make a household inventory list as you move from closet to closet and room to room. Include on your list—date of purchase, value, etc... if an heirloom—its history!

-Evaluate as you sort. How often is it used? Is it broken? Can it be fixed? Careful about clothing—does it fit, out of style, no longer worn or needed (do we need to keep our prom dress from 1969?)

-As you sort—divide items into piles of where they need to be stored.

-Select a storage system that best suits your needs. Do you need special storage for items such as old photos or heirloom textiles? Remember adequate lighting, ventilation, safety issues and point of use when storing items.



If you have something to share with other 'Divas' —don't be shy. Contact me by email and share your story, tip or idea at mhixson@uky.edu

Knitting It All Up...

April has started on a good note for de-cluttering for myself. I have organized some end of the year ornament purchases—yes, I really needed them! And I have found the niftiest organizer helper—a zippered plastic bag that folds out into a large storage container for long term or short term storage. I have been using it to contain my “keepers” as I sort through fabric in my sewing room. When I finish the sorting, I will unload the plastic bags into more permanent bins and then move on with the empty bags to the next sorting job. The sorting can really be the key, so having some help has made it easier!

See you next month, Mary

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