



- ✿ Halloween is over and before you blink, Thanksgiving will be upon us. Begin preparations now so that you won't feel overwhelmed on the big day. Some things that you can do ahead of time -- invite your guests either via phone or mail, determine your menu, allow your guests to bring some of the items on the menu (if they offer), prepare items that can be made now and freeze them (pies for example).
- ✿ Be sure to plan your errands in a logical sequence so as not to be going back and forth across town. Also be sure to have everything you need with you so that you don't waste a trip.
- ✿ When you are putting away your Halloween decorations and taking out your Thanksgiving ones, be sure to trash any of them that have seen better days. Also consider donating any that you have that you won't be using any more, but are still in good shape.
- ✿ Get yourself organized for 2019. If you use a desk or wall calendar or planner, now is the time to purchase it. If you're digital, make sure you have updated the app. No matter what kind of calendar you use, be sure to record all important dates to start off your 2019 in a stress-free way.
- ✿ 15 minute organizing -- empty out the meat and vegetable drawers of your fridge/freezer. Trash anything that is freezer bit or yucky. Use up any items that are getting close to their expiration date in tonight's dinner. Wash out the drawers with mild detergent and replace the remaining items.
- ✿ 15 minute organizing -- coat closet! Empty out everything inside. Anything that doesn't fit and/or wasn't worn last season is just taking up unnecessary space. Donate it! So many people are in need of a warm coat. Anything that is left should be sorted either by season or by family member. Be sure to use sturdy wooden hangers to hold the heavy coats. Store hats, gloves and scarves in baskets within reach of all family members (maybe on the floor of the closet) so that everyone can help themselves and put their own stuff away.
- ✿ 15 minute organizing -- craft clear-out! Go through your children's or your crafts and dispose of or donate items that either no longer interest you or are no longer age-appropriate. This will free up space for learning and doing new crafts and provide those in need (local schools or libraries) with much needed supplies.
- ✿ 15 minute organizing--pull out one file folder, review and purge it as needed. If it takes less than 15 minutes, grab a second one. Keep going til 15 minutes has elapsed.

- ❁ 15 minute organizing -- Tupperware type containers. Take some time to empty out the cabinet or drawer where you keep these storage containers. If any have a white residue, trash them, they are no longer safe to use. Also, match up each container with its lid. If there is no lid, trash the container. Finally, nest the containers one inside the next as your space allows. Use one or two of the larger containers to hold all of the lids.
- ❁ What do I do with an old American flag? Most VFW halls will have a disposal container for old flags. Flags should never be thrown in the trash; check with local VFW clubs near you for disposal of your worn out Old Glory.
- ❁ 15 minute organizing--empty your car's trunk. Trash the trash, put away the stuff that shouldn't be there and add supplies for winter travel (ice scraper, blanket, kitty litter, jumper cables, etc.). What else should be in there for winter?
- ❁ This time of year can get overwhelming with the amount of catalogs that start to arrive in the mail. Even if you've taken yourself off of mailing lists by visiting https://dmachoice.thedma.org/.../mps_consumer_description.php... they will start to arrive hoping for your order. Consider recycling them as soon as you receive them. Or at the very least, only keep those that are true possibilities for great gifts.
- ❁ I always recommend donating your unwanted items, if at all possible, rather than just trashing them. It's better to be able to help out those in need, get a tax write-off and not add to the landfills. However, don't hold onto items at the detriment of yourself. Some folks want the item to get to the "perfect" place and never end up donating it. You are better off donating it to any organization than to allow it to control your space and your life.
- ❁ While doing your Black Friday shopping today, be sure to map out a plan. You'll want to be sure to shop in the order that not only makes sense geographically, but also makes sense dependent upon which time the sales end. Have fun and be safe! And, if you are wanting to give a Magically Organized gift certificate for the holidays, check out my website at <https://www.magicallyorganized.com/Services---Shopping.html>
- ❁ Many people put their outdoor Christmas decorations up the weekend following Thanksgiving. If you have the time, clean up your front yard and flower beds before putting out your holiday decorations. It will help to make the decorating go more smoothly -- decorations will sit more evenly on a cleaned up base and evened out bushes will allow for better light distribution. Also, your decorations will not get as dirty if all of the decaying leaves are removed first.
- ❁ Christmas Shopping Tip -- before you go out to purchase gifts, be sure to have your list ready. Check all of the stores sales flyers and make out your plan of attack. Do not go around and roam aimlessly, you will spend a ton more money. Also, be sure to continue to watch the sales ads even after you buy. You can go back to stores to get adjustments (money back) or Wal-Mart will even match the other competitor's price (check their site for exact details). If you are doing your shopping online, these same guidelines apply.
- ❁ You can organize without trashing & donating, but it does make it easier. However, don't keep yourself unorganized simply because you're afraid to get rid of stuff. Once you start sorting, you may find you have the available space you need. If not, then purging will be necessary.
- ❁ If you live in a small space and need room for storage, think above your head and below your feet. You can store items on shelving (above) and under beds and dressers (below). You can also take advantage of hanging organizers on the backs of doors and cabinets.
- ❁ On the days that are particularly stressful, consider taking a moment to write yourself a quick note reminding yourself what you are grateful for that day. It will lift your mood and allow for a better night's sleep.