

Declutter, Organize & Clean Your Home

A place for everything, and everything in its place.

Bedrooms

— **Bedding:** strip the beds and wash the bedding either in your own machines or at the laundromat. Inspect your bedding and pillows for replacement. Add to your shopping list. Do you have a foam mattress topper? Worth the investment! You should have at least one extra set of linens so while one is being washed, the other can be placed on the bed. Also, it's nice, but not necessary to have seasonal linens. Flannel sheets are great for cold weather. Themed sheets are nice for holidays.

— **Surfaces:** remove items from the tops of bureaus, nightstands, and other surfaces. As you remove items, create piles or place items in one of 4 containers: keep for this room, donate, trash, move to other room. Wash and wipe all emptied surfaces.

— **Clothes:** If you've picked up clothing from the floor or other surfaces, does it go in the laundry? back in the closet or bureau? one of the discard piles?

- **Closets:** If you're ready to weed your clothes now, take clothes out of the closet and set up piles on the bed. Some people like to organize by color but I organize by type first and then color: all shirts, all sweaters, all pants, all dresses. Do you have a separate closet where you can store seasonal clothes?

- **Bureaus:** Keep like items together: socks, underwear, bras, pajamas, etc. Again, move seasonal clothing to a separate storage area if possible.

These tips brought to you by:

— **Under bed space:** Can you use the space under the bed for storage? Use long, low containers on wheels under the bed. This can be for seasonal clothing: sweaters in summer and bathing suits in winter. Whatever you use under the bed should be sturdy. I found the collapsible stiff fabric containers were not sturdy enough and also the zip close cover was a nuisance when I tried to store my shoes under the bed. Make sure to measure the space under your bed before purchasing under bed containers.

— **Storage containers:** Is your jewelry in the bedroom? It needs a box for your jewelry collection as well as a jewelry catchall dish on the bureau for your daily wear. Is your make-up in the bedroom? If so, hopefully you have a vanity set up specifically for make-up. If not, use a make-up bag that you can move to your make-up application area and put away when finished. Do you need a container for your electronic chargers and cables? Is there a drawer in your room or nightstand where you can keep these items?

— **Floor/Carpets:** wash or vacuum weekly; wipe up spills as they happen.

— **Trash:** take it out weekly and when it smells; sanitize trash can weekly

— **Visualize:** Imagine how you want your bedroom to look and then take steps to make it happen.

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