

A Place for Everything

If your dining room table is a rest stop for mail and the medicine cabinet houses an avalanche of toiletries, it's time to take control of your home. These genius de-clutterers and smart organizing strategies help you reel in four common mess-makers

Gift Wrapping Supplies

HANG IT All the essentials—paper, scissors, tape, ribbon, markers, labels—can live neatly (and out of the way) in the closet. This clever station (both sides, at right) has plenty of pockets for sorting and opens up to stand on the floor like an easel. Smart!

BE CHOOSY What you need to have on hand: one or two rolls for adult birthday presents; one for kids; a generic pattern (for showers, housewarming, or hostess gifts); and two rolls of holiday wrap. **GET RID OF SCRAPS** Long, skinny strips are seldom used. **TAKE STOCK BEFORE YOU SHOP** Avoid loading up on supplies like holiday wrap because it's on sale.



INGENIOUS IDEA Each side of this foldout organizer has pockets for all your gear.

HOW NEAT! Gift-wrap workstation, the Container Store, \$49; containerstore.com.

Electronics/Cords

CONSOLIDATE Consider investing in one charging station (below) that holds your iPod, PDA and phone. Wires stay discreetly tucked inside, eliminating tangles.

SORT AND RECYCLE Go through every charger, adapter, cell phone, and pager and purge the ones you no longer need. Log on to epa.gov/epawaste, then click on Electronics Recycling (eCycling) for a list of local and government organizations, as well as stores and manufacturers, that offer collection or repurposing programs. **GET CREATIVE** An over-the-door shoe organizer with pockets is a great way to stash extra cords, chargers, and electronics by category.

LABEL IT End out-of-control cable confusion with Dotz Cord Identifiers (\$8; officedepot.com)—they make it easier to plug and unplug the right equipment.



HQ FOR ELECTRONICS Bamboo 3-pod charger, Kangaroo Storage, \$45; kangaroomstorage.com.



Beauty Catchall

BE MAGNETIC A metal board (above)—affixed to a wall, the inside of a medicine cabinet, or a closet—lets you hang your toiletries. Pills and cotton pads get corralled in magnetic spice tins, while scissors and such loop easily over magnetized hooks.

ASSIGN SHELVES Give each person who uses the bathroom a designated space for everyday supplies to simplify the endless search for things.

TOSS CARTONS They take up space and don't look great. Items that require easy access, such as cotton swabs, cotton balls, or Band-Aids, may be stored in smaller, prettier containers and then refilled as needed.

USE DRAWER ORGANIZERS You've heard it before, but it's a hard and fast rule that neatniks swear by: House similar products together in separate compartments—makeup brushes in one section, nail supplies in another, hair accessories in a third, and so on.

Our Experts Gail Blanke, author of *Throw Out Fifty Things*; Mark Brunetz, author of *Take the U Out of Clutter*; Andrew J. Mellen, author of *Unstuff Your Life!*

A WORKING WALL Magnet board in Ava Pool (11" x 17"), the Macbeth Collection, \$39; themacbethcollection.com. Spot-On magnet hooks, Three by Three Seattle, \$5 each; shop.threebythree.com. Magnetic spice tins, Kamenstein, \$3 each; bedbathandbeyond.com.

Mail

DIVIDE AND CONQUER! A no-brainer system that's easy to access will keep papers prioritized. These magnetic pockets (below)—which can be mounted to the wall—are perfect for holding bills, "take action" items (like invitations), and magazines and catalogues.

SHRED STRATEGICALLY Review mail, then ditch anything that could expose you to identity theft (letters with your Social Security number, bank statements, medical or legal info, and credit card offers). A shredder that gobbles with gusto: the 3227901 Intellishred PS-79Ci, Fellowes (\$190; amazon.com).



LETTERS TO REMEMBER Magnetic pockets, Three by Three Seattle, \$20 each; organizait.com.