

quick fix home



drawers

According to Linda Koopersmith, a Beverly Hills personal organizer, "Every drawer in your home should have a tray with dividers to keep things in order" (left, \$7; at Bed Bath & Beyond, 800-462-3966). Try using adhesive Velcro on the bottom of the drawer and underside of the tray to prevent sliding.

medicine cabinet

People generally try to store too much in their medicine cabinets, says professional organizer Andrew Mellen of New York City. His advice? Throw out expired medications, then group other items (a handful of cotton balls, your favorite bottles of nail polish, makeup brushes) on shelves in clear acrylic containers (right, \$4-\$6 each; 800-786-7315 or containerstore.com). An added benefit: Cradled in acrylic trays, bottles of bath salts and perfume are less likely to slip off the shelf and shatter in the sink. Put space-eating boxes of Band-Aids and Q-tips in a closet or in a cabinet under the sink.



solution



pot lids

Pots and pans can be nestled together, but their lids stubbornly resist stacking, creating chaos in your cupboards. Combat this problem by installing a steel lid rack (far right, \$3; at ikea.com) on the inside of a cabinet door.

If you're short on space, follow Mellen's example. "I mounted mine on the exposed side of one of my cabinets," he says. "It's accessible, and it still looks neat." Another option is to designate one cabinet just for lids and hang pots from a ceiling rack (Stephen Saint-Onge likes the racks at Expo Design Center; 866-297-3976 or expo.com for stores). Match stainless-steel pans with a rack of a similar material; copper pans look smart paired with wrought iron, Saint-Onge says.



solution



problem



spices and herbs

A lazy Susan stacked five jars deep can make hunting for sage and cinnamon a frustrating endeavor. Instead, fill glass jars with spices and herbs, and arrange them on a stainless-steel rack (left, \$25; 866-376-6856 or stacksandstacks.com). "This rack is clean and stylish," says Saint-Onge, "and it makes it easy to see what you're short of."

cds

Piles of CDs and broken jewel cases can be a real problem, says personal organizer Ellen Kosloff of New York City, who advocates consolidating discs in attractive books (far right, 48-disc faux-leather albums, Milano, \$20 each; 800-727-3701 or paperaccess.com). If you arrange discs according to genre—putting jazz in one book, rock in another, and so on—it's easy to zero in on what you're looking for. You can also insert printed materials into the sleeve with the CD. For those who prefer keeping discs in their original packaging, Kosloff suggests using enclosed wooden cabinets from Spinkeeper (845-351-5994 or spinkeeper.com).



problem



solution



solution



problem

media center

When setting up electronic equipment, you don't want to create a balancing act on top of your TV, says Kosloff. She advises investing in a cabinet made for media storage (far left, beech veneer TV stand, H: 21¼",

W: 38½", D: 19¼", \$300; 212-691-5595 or basicsfurniture.com). Andrew Mellen suggests arranging stereo, Tivo, and DVD and CD players from smallest to largest on shelves ("It's more appealing visually") and using the drawers to stow videos, owners manuals and extra remotes. Units with casters are preferable to those with fixed legs, says Mellen, "so you can pivot the stand and watch television from anywhere in the room."