

BACK TO SCHOOL ORGANISING PROJECTS

School holidays are a great time to reconnect with our family, without all the schedules. Racing from one place to another, all those drop offs, pick-ups and lunchboxes become so yesterday.

On the flip side, trying to keep a sense of order in our homes over the holidays is just a losing battle and we all know everything takes longer with kids in tow.

As the holidays draw to a close, no doubt, your list of bugbears and projects are piling up and you're ready to get back into the swing of things.

Before you rush ahead and do a regular tidy up, consider these organising tips from expert accredited AAPO professional organiser Robyn Amott from Bless this Mess. They are sure to have you hitting the 'go button' on all those organising and decluttering projects from the minute the school bell rings



Tip 1: Assess

Take note of all your bugbears. Those zones/spaces/stuff that have been driving you nuts throughout the year, or over the break, which you just never seem to find time to get to.

Tip 2: Prioritise

Consider your list and focus on each one independently. How do you want this space to feel and function, what is its purpose? What does/doesn't work within the space?

Be realistic about how much time you have for each task/area, whilst also ensuring you set aside the time in your schedule over the coming weeks or months.

Tip 3: Group

Start with one space or category of item at a time. Clear the contents of the space into the nearest hallway and group 'like with like items' together. Additionally, draw any items of the same category from other areas.

Tip 4: Sort

Work through each pile deciding what needs to be de-cluttered/donated/kept or is garbage.

Ask yourself – 'Do I need IT', 'Do I use IT', 'Does IT have a purpose to me', 'Is IT age and stage appropriate'? Consider how much space you have available to allocate to each of these categories. This provides you with a guideline as to how much content you need to declutter, sets limits and ensures effective storage use.

Tip 5: Map Out & Zone

Your space is now a blank canvas. So consider a new layout. Break each space into zones – prioritising items you access regularly in a central, easily accessible zone, with those rarely accessed items in higher zones. Consider too if you're right or left handed as this will also impact on your zoning. Allocate only one space for a set function/purpose to assist in the location and return of items. You want to create homes for your items that make sense, saving you time and stress.

Tip 6: Storage

Measure your space to ensure storage items will fit the depth of the space and are size relevant to the content. Additionally, extra shelves can maximise your storage potential and provide greater flexibility in how you group items, whilst divisions within draws will provide homes for individual groups of items.

Choose storage items based on whether they suit the required function ahead of something that just looks pretty.

Tip 7: Pack Up

Time to put it all away. Keep within the zones/limits of your plan. If items within each category exceed their limit you may need to re-assess and declutter further or even rethink your plan or storage items.

Group like with like items in a container or on the same shelf.

Tip 8: Identify

Label your new spaces/homes/storage items to help the entire household know where to find and pack away for the future, to ensure all your hard work doesn't go to waste.

Tip 9: Maintenance

Items are constantly coming into our home. To maintain the balance, adopt this very simple rule. It's called the 'one in – one out' rule. For every item that enters your home, an item of equal value or content needs to be moved on. Also reconsider purchases you don't need. You'll find you stay within the space limits and won't need to set aside as much time to keep it all under control.

By Robyn Amott, Professional Organiser and owner of Bless this Mess. blessthemess.com.au

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