



## Organizing Tips "from the pros"

### Eight Easy Family Friendly Tricks for Kitchen Organization

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*Shelves to Drawers*

*When I design kitchens and bathrooms I spend most of my time planning out the use of every square inch of the space to keep it efficient and practical. The most important thing to remember when organizing your home is understanding your family's needs. If you are successful here, then you've got an easy road ahead.*



#### **A minimal style is clean living.**

I've seen stacks of kids' artwork, crafts and school paperwork sit like an ominous pile that haunts the corners of my client's homes. I recently designed a child friendly playroom and I dedicated an 8x10 matted frame to the "Art of the Month Club". The rest of the collection is kept in a kitchen drawer and on New Year's Eve there's an Art Show, then it's discarded to make way for the new pieces.

#### **Endless piles of kids' stuff makes a haven feel like a padded cell!**

In each home I design I leave a gift - a large, flat box labeled Our Year of Memories. I have one in my house and all year long we toss all kinds of things in there - postcards, ticket stubs, artwork, funny photos, cards from friends and family, and cool menus. On New Year's Eve we sit around drinking champagne as we open the box and share the memories. Then we toss it all and begin again.

#### **Easy Access Food Storage**

Put bulk items like rice, cereal and pasta in clear plastic or glass storage boxes is a great way to know what you're running low on at a glance.

#### **The Junk Mail Drawer**

Register at [Ecocycle.org](http://Ecocycle.org) to control the amount of catalogs and junk mail you receive.

#### **Storing Tiny, Little, Small Items**

For a cheap-chic look I cover old shoe boxes and cardboard boxes from delivered goods with fun paper to store tea lights, magazine clippings, trinkets, and recipes. It's all kept neatly in a kitchen cabinet. When I buy wrapping paper I stick with the color scheme of blues and greens, and I never buy paper that is so specific (ie. Happy Birthday, Congratulations) I can't use it for other projects.

#### **Family Filing**

A vertical file in the kitchen is a great place to store bills, receipts and notes. Keep it tucked away in a kitchen cabinet. My clients' agree that this is the best spot for these items, not the home office (funny enough).

#### **A Pantry with Punch**

Half-eaten snacks clutter everyone's pantry. So brown bag it! Label a brown bag or glass container for each family member - avoiding the habitual snack hog-- portion it out after each grocery trip. Also whatever canned goods won't get used, donate to your local food bank. Keep a small chalkboard on your pantry door with the date of your last pantry cleansing.

#### **Too Many Storage Containers!**

Nothing looks great if it accumulates! Decide on the number of boxes that's right for your stuff and stick to that. Labels should be dated and a system set in place so that the box contents is regularly purged.

Check out Krista's Blog at: <http://www.roomrecipes.com>

Krista's new HGTV show *Splurge & Save* will premiere on January 5, 2010 at 8 AM EST

<http://www.hgtv.com/splurge-and-save/show/index.html>