

How Can I Help You Get Organized?

by Dale Manno

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"Avoiding Pre and Post Holiday Stress"

If you've been asking yourself how to get through one more season of planning, shopping, cooking, gift wrapping, decorating, entertaining, etc., you're reading the right article.

First of all, we're going to start with next holiday season. Yes, that's right. Plan NOW for simplifying next year's tasks. Before you even put away this year's decorations, take a good look at the stuff you didn't use this year. You know what I mean...after your house is completely decorated for the holidays, look at what's left over (and crammed into your garage and closets). I'm talking about strings of lights that don't work, crushed garlands, damaged ornaments, and items that have outlived their usefulness. Think about this: If you didn't use them, there's a reason for it. You may have purchased shiny, new things without getting rid of the old. Take this opportunity to clear out anything unwanted or unused. Throw it away if it's damaged, otherwise give it to your local favorite charity, or take it to a consignment shop. You'll have more storage space for this year's decorations, and you won't have a lot of sorting to do next year.

Next, take a moment to make up a holiday file folder. Use it to corral your gift lists, gift receipts, favorite recipes, greeting card lists, and any planning ideas you used (or would like to use next year). On the inside of the folder, write the following headings:

1. What I OVERDID last year. (Jot down your thoughts, e.g., spent too much money on gifts, too much time shopping, sent too many cards, too many parties, etc.)
2. What I REALLY wanted to do. (Be honest here, e.g., get a massage, dine out on Thanksgiving, spend more time with kids at home, etc.)

Make a note in your yearly planner for the month of September to check your holiday folder. You'll know what worked for you this season, and what didn't. Simplify your plans for the future, and enjoy!

I am a professional organizer, and I love what I do. The National Association of Professional Organizers has designated January as "National Get Organized Month." Call me to help you with your business and/or professional organizing needs. You may want to think about decluttering your kids' rooms, transforming your clothing closet into your own personal boutique, or reorganizing your kitchen. Need to tame your paper tiger? Call me. I offer a complimentary consultation, and I'd love to help YOU get organized!

Dale Manno, Owner

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