



## Organize your essentials to change handbags as often as you like

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Carry your purse for both fashion and function - without a lot of clutter inside.  
photo from Getty Images

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If you're like many women, your handbag is not just a fashion statement, it's the container for all of your daily essentials while away from home.

You also need to be able to reach inside and actually find those essentials at your fingertips.

And, if you change purses with any frequency, it should take no time at all to move the contents from one bag to the next.

[Female Think](#) offers a handy list of steps to use as you organize your purse, once and for all:

1. **Purge.** Remove everything from your bag onto a bed or other flat surface so you can see it and sort it. Throw away the obvious trash, including pens that no longer work and items that are too damaged to be useful anymore. Keep the essentials: keys, wallet, cell phone, a few items of makeup, and those few additional items you use when you're out of the house (packable umbrella, small water bottle).
2. **Consider a smaller purse.** That shoulder and back pain many women feel might come partly from the overloaded bag they've been carrying around. Keep your essential items in your purse, and occasionally use a tote or other bag or briefcase for the additional heavy items.
3. **Use pouches for portability.** Pack each type of essential into a small zippered bag, zipper-top plastic bag, or purse-size organizer. These bags will make it quick and easy to change purses without having to reorganize everything every time.
4. **Keep your essentials in consistent places.** Set up a system in which you place items in the same place in every bag you use so you can find them instantly: your cell phone always in the side pocket and wallet next to your PDA.
5. **Lighten your load.** Empty your purse on a regular basis (Female Think recommends daily - I would suggest weekly) to remove trash, unused and unuseable items, keeping only what you really need. Make this a habit to assure that your handbag never becomes a heavy piece of luggage on your shoulder.

Where to find handbag organizers:

- [Container Store](#)
- [Yours Lovingly](#)
- [Kangaroo Keeper](#)
- [Purseket](#)

Share your purse organizing ideas here!