



Get organized and save money - Part 1: Home

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Saving money by getting organized is easier than you think, from remodeling to fixing what's broken.
Good Housekeeping photo

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Get organized and save! Not only does being organized save your precious time, it also positions you to use what you have and avoid buying and re-buying what you can't find. In this multi-part series, you'll find tips and links to help you maximize time and minimize expense.

Part 1: Around the Home

Improve freezer efficiency. You'll save on electricity required to run your freezer if you keep it full. Provide air space, though, by making a 1" clearance around all sides. And, don't forget to save money longer-term by packaging frozen items with labels showing what's inside and when you froze the item. No more freezer burn or food that's too old to eat. See the Get Organized article on [fridge and pantry organization](#) for additional tips.

Rent your extra space. Looking for some extra income? Consider cleaning out a section of your garage or setting up your extra bedroom or finished basement for storage or a tenant. See [Spare Foot](#) and [Store at My House](#) for additional information on how to get started. And, see the Get Organized articles on cleaning out your [garage](#) and [basement](#) to get those spaces ready.

Get rid of your extra furniture. Find new homes for your still-useable furniture by donating to one of the [nonprofit furniture banks](#) located nationwide. Your furniture will stay out of a landfill; you'll get a receipt so that you can claim a tax deduction; and a deserving family will put your castoffs to good use. Find other ways to offload your stuff in the Get Organized article "[Donating items you don't need or use is as easy as A-B-C.](#)"

Sell your junk. If you'd rather sell your items than give them away, find out what they're worth first. Visit [itaggit](#) to find out what objects like yours have been selling for at online sales, market, and auction sites.

Sell your books. Downsizing that in-home library can be one of the most challenging tasks in your efforts to get organized. If you have books that you would rather sell than donate, visit [Cash4Books](#) and [Sell Back Your Book](#), and use your books' ISBN numbers (found in each book's front pages) to list them for sale. You package and mail what you sell to the buyer, and you get paid by check or PayPal deposit.

Get free help solving problems with your stuff. At [FixYa](#), online resources and instant chat features link you to solutions to your problems with everything from your car to your smart phone - no charge.

Decide what's cheaper - DIY or hiring a professional. Get comparison estimates for home improvement and remodeling projects at [DIY or Not](#). And, link to the Get Organized article "[Organize to find that extra space you need without breaking the bank](#)" for a step-by-step strategy to plan your project.

Share your ideas here for getting organized while saving money, and click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.