



## Organize your bathroom for health and efficiency

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On average, we spend about four hours each week in our bathrooms, taking care of hygiene and grooming chores, and sometimes just spending some quiet time alone.

If you can no longer find the things you need in your bathroom, or if it's become messy enough to cause you frustration or stress, it's time to get this very important space organized. Use these steps to make the job quick and easy:

### CLEAN UP

1. Start by sorting and purging. Taking one cabinet, one drawer, and one shelf at a time, discard products you no longer use, toss those almost-empty containers, and dispose of medications whose expiration dates have passed.
2. Also get rid of worn-out towels and other linens, appliances that don't work or that you haven't used for at least a year, and items that are so dirty that you don't want to bother to clean them up.
3. As you find still-useful items that you just don't want or need, put them in a bag or box to donate: clean linens, small appliances that work, unopened soaps or other products. If you're planning to redecorate after you reorganize, this is a great time to get rid of items that will not match your new color scheme or design.
4. Put aside the items you have decided to keep to be organized. Now, give the bathroom a thorough cleaning and disinfection.

### GET ORGANIZED

1. Sort through the items you've set aside, putting like things together: soap and other bathing products, shampoo and other hair products, first aid items, medicines, towels, paper products, sanitary items, cleaning products, etc. Organize each category of items together on its own shelf or in its own drawer, preferably close to the space where you use the items (dental items near the sink, for example).
2. Minimize countertop clutter by storing as much as you can in drawers or on shelves. Use attractive containers to organize and display those items you decide must live on bathroom counters: toothbrushes, current toothpaste tube or pump, box of tissues, cup or cup dispenser, soap pump or dish, etc.
3. If your bathroom doesn't have enough built-in storage, find space saving organizers to help keep your space clutter-free: over-the-toilet shelving, hooks for corded items like hair dryers, over-the-showerhead carryalls for soaps and shampoos, over-door racks for towels or robes, clear plastic bins for under-counter storage.
4. Make it a habit to spend a few minutes to tidy your bathroom each day so that it never becomes cluttered again.

### RESOURCES FOR ORGANIZED BATHROOMS

For advice on cleaning your bathroom, see [About.com](#).

For more bathroom organization specifics, see HGTV's "[Quick Tips](#)."

For a checklist of bathroom organizing tips, see [Online Organizing](#).

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