



## ***Get organized by using your stuff unusually: old luggage***

Take those old suitcases out of the attic and put them to good use around your home.

Photo: [acottageindustry.typepad.com](http://acottageindustry.typepad.com)

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When you can't imagine using them for travel anymore, but they're too good to throw away or donate, consider some non-travel uses for your old luggage. Rather than storing them in your attic, basement, or garage, pull out those old suitcases and put them to use inside your home.

Make sure it's clean, both inside and outside, to prepare your luggage for its new life. Wipe with a mild soap or spray cleaner, and dry completely before using. If it's musty, wipe it thoroughly with a mixture of 1 part vinegar to 5 parts water, then let it air dry for a few days. Also, placing some charcoal inside your closed luggage for a few days will allow the charcoal to absorb any remaining odors. Link to [essortment.com](http://essortment.com) for more tips on cleaning luggage.

Once those old suitcases are spiffy again, use them for a variety of useful and creative purposes:

- Stack them, largest on the bottom, smallest on top, to make an end table.
- Add legs to the bottom of a vintage suitcase to make a creative table that includes inside storage.
- Store all types of fabrics: table linens, sewing and quilting fabrics, placemats, sheet sets, towels.
- Pack and store extra sets of flatware, china, or crystal, all well wrapped, until they're needed for special occasions or large events at your home.
- Use an old, colorful child-size suitcase as a laptop bag. Add some sturdy foam padding on the bottom and sides (available at craft and hobby stores) to assure that your computer is well protected.
- An old trunk in your child's room makes a great toy box - just be sure to remove any sharp hardware and small parts. Use a trunk for costumes and dress-up clothes for your children as well.
- A smaller suitcase can hold children's toys when not in use, and it's easy to slide it under a bed, out of sight and uncluttered until the next use.
- Any suitcase that is flat enough to slide under a bed may be used for handy out-of-the-way storage: blankets, shoes, sweaters, out-of-season clothing, sports equipment, books, photo albums, craft supplies.
- Create a portable pet bed - with storage pockets - from an old suitcase. Your animal's size will determine what size bag you'll need for this project.
- If you're willing to take some time and use some skill to re-style your vintage luggage, you can make a jewelry display case, a portable craft supply case, a picnic case, a portable wine bar, and even upholstered chairs with matching ottomans.

Find additional inspiration for re-using your old luggage at [Naughty Secretary Club](#) and [Associated Content](#). Share your ideas here, and click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.