Easy tasks you can do in each area of the home to prepare for a more organized spring!

**Kitchen**

- **Perfect the pantry**: toss expired foods and check all spices too. The general rule is if you can’t smell a spice, it’s likely you will not be able to taste it either.

- **Stash holiday serve ware**: take an inventory of what is left over from the holidays. If you still have bulky holiday platters, linens and serving bowls within reach, pack them up and store them until next season.

- **Get a handle on paper clutter**: designate one area in the kitchen to collect mail, paper and school work before it takes over the counter. Check out these inexpensive solutions to corral paper clutter before it hits the home.

- **Spring clean the fridge**: if you’re still shifting around cheese spreads and jams from holiday gift baskets to grab what you really need, it’s time to let them go.

- **Go down under**: don’t forget to declutter cabinets under the sink and to give your pots and pans some attention. Match up lids for plastic ware and pitch or recycle the ones that are all alone.

**Bath**

- **Makeover your makeup!**: Spring is the perfect time of year to evaluate your cosmetic collection because it’s likely you’re already switching it out anyway for lighter hues. As you do the "spring switch," get rid of anything that’s expired or that you didn’t use this season.

- **Cure Medicine Cabinet Clutter**: again, if you have expired medicines in there, it’s time to get rid of them. Here’s a guide on how to dispose of unused medicines. If you can’t find an expiration date and cannot remember the last time you used it, don’t risk keeping it for later. Like the old adage goes – better safe than sorry!

- **Lessen the load in your linen closet**: spend about an hour in it to see what linens you actually use. If sheets are missing pillow cases, take an inventory of what you need to complete the set. For sheets, we recommend folding fitted and flat sheets and sliding them inside of the matching pillow case so that sets are organized and easy to find.

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“Our favorite trick: Each season, face all hangers in your closet the opposite way than you would normally hang an item. Each time you wear a garment, hang it back up the correct way. In four months, if the hanger is still facing the opposite way, it’s time to donate the items that are on those hangers.”

*Pat Golich*
Closet

- **Edit your wardrobe:** now's the perfect time of year to switch out your wardrobe for spring. As you're packing away sweaters and boots, ask yourself if it's time for certain items to go. The general rule is if you haven't worn an item in more than three months, it's time to donate it to someone who will.

- **Energize the space:** add matching hangers for an instant closet makeover. If your closet is large, buy them in bulk for a better discount.

- **Flex your storage:** if you’re dealing with stationary shelves that dictate where you store your clothes and shoes, you’re probably wasting valuable space. Adjustable shelves allow you to change them according to what is being stored. So if you have shoes that are only 4 inches tall, you can adjust the shelves right above them and can fit more shelves in a stack. freedomRail adjustable organizing systems are the perfect solutions. Try out our design tool now to see endless possibilities.

- **Enforce rules:** once your closet is set for spring, be sure to use the “one in, one out rule.” This means when you buy something new, be willing to let go of something you already have. We promise; this is the best way to keep the space organized.

- **Get creative!** You don’t have to spend a ton to organize your closet for spring. Simple touches can make all the difference. Here are some of our favorite DIY storage ideas to store belts, handbags, shoes and scarves.

Garage

- **Divide and conquer:** remove everything from the garage while sorting items into plies such as automotive, trash or charity. Or, plan a huge garage sale with neighbors. It’s fun and will motivate you to clear the clutter.

- **Assign zones:** for items you keep, plan separate “zones” in the garage for tools, sports equipment, lawn and garden supplies. When planning your zones, be sure to keep convenience and safety in mind.

- **Free up floor space:** use hooks and organizers that attach to the wall. Organized Living Activity Organizers feature Wall Grids and accessories that are perfect for storing bikes, gardening tools and kid’s toys and keep storage adjustable.

- **Make room for spring!** Say goodbye to sleds and snow shovels and hello to bikes and gardening rakes. Store seasonal items up high in storage containers. After all, you only need them once a year.

- **Bid farewell to bulky, expired paint:** tightly sealed paint lasts only for about two years. To see if it is still good, stir it and look at it. If it seems stringy or lumpy, throw it out. Or, try brushing it on a piece of scrap to see how it performs. Click here for a guide on how to get rid of paint safely.

Mudroom

- **Evaluate the space:** determine what it is truly used for. For instance, do you store sports activities? Or is it only for coats? Is it where you keep pet supplies? Once you determine what it is truly used for, get rid of everything else that doesn’t belong.

- **Divide the space using drawers:** hooks and clothes hanging space is great, but to truly keep things organized, drawers and baskets are a must. Organized Living freedomRail offers customizable options that you can assign to each family member to keep their books, shoes and accessories tidy.

- **Spring into the season:** pack up snow boots, wool hats and down coats to make room for umbrellas, rain boots and wind jackets! Clean and store them in labeled containers until next year.