ROOM BY ROOM · KITCHEN

How to Organize Cookbooks and Recipes

How to sort cookbooks and loose recipes into one system you'll actually cook from.

WHERE TO START

Start with the loose papers. They're quicker to decide on than the books.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ☐ A clear counter
- ☐ An accordion folder or three-ring binder
- ☐ Sheet protectors
- ☐ A recycling bag

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Put the time on your calendar like any other appointment. Give it one unhurried sitting at the kitchen table.

The method

1. **Lay it all out**
   Every cookbook and every loose recipe, on the kitchen counter.
2. **Keep only the ones you cook from**
   Let go of the books and clippings you keep out of habit.
3. **Choose paper or digital**
   Decide once, so recipes stop living in three places.
4. **Set up a filing system**
   For paper, an accordion folder or a three-ring binder. For digital, save a copy, then let the paper go.
5. **Find their spot**
   Easy to reach from where you cook, but out of sight enough not to add clutter.
6. **Add new recipes the same way**
   Every new recipe goes straight into the system.

Good to know

One home for all of them

Books and recipes together in one easy-to-reach spot.

Paper stays filed

An accordion folder or a binder keeps loose recipes from drifting.

Going digital?

Make the electronic copy, then recycle the paper so you don't keep both.

KEEP IT THAT WAY

Each time you add a recipe, let one go that you never make.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

The best recipe system is the one you'll open on a busy Tuesday night.

YOUR CHECKLIST IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

More tips and photos in the full post: read it here

ROOM BY ROOM · KITCHEN · CHECKLIST

Cookbooks and Recipes Checklist

STARTED _____ DONE _____

- [ ] Take all of your cookbooks and loose recipes and lay them out on your kitchen counter.
- [ ] Go through them and get rid of any papers or books you don't want to keep.
- [ ] Choose a place to store all of your recipes and cookbooks that is easy to reach but doesn't add a lot of visual clutter.
- [ ] If you want to keep the paper recipes, choose an organized filing system, such as an accordion folder or a three-ring binder.
- [ ] If you choose an electronic method, get rid of the paper copies after you've made the electronic copy.

NOTES

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