ROOM BY ROOM · KITCHEN

How to Organize the Junk Drawer

Fifteen minutes to turn the junk drawer into a drawer that finally works.

WHERE TO START

Pull the drawer out and dump it onto the counter. All of it.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ☐ Trash bag
- ☐ A damp cloth
- ☐ Small boxes or drawer dividers

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Put the time on your calendar like any other appointment. One room per session is plenty.

The method

1. **Empty it out**
   Take everything out and lay it on a clear counter, so you can see all of it at once.
2. **Clean the space**
   Wipe it down while it's empty. It takes two minutes and makes the rest feel like a fresh start.
3. **Keep only what belongs**
   Throw out the trash, set aside what lives somewhere else, and decide what earns its place here.
4. **Sort into families**
   Put like items together before you choose any container.
5. **Give each family a home**
   One container or spot per family, with the ones you use most closest to you.
6. **Put the rest away**
   Return everything you set aside to the room it belongs in before you call it done.

In this room

Dump it out

Literally. Then wipe the empty drawer and get rid of the crumbs and little bits.

Rehome first

Most of what's in there belongs somewhere else. Take it there before you organize.

Closest to you

Put the containers you reach for most at the front of the drawer.

KEEP IT THAT WAY

Pick one day a month to go through the drawer and wipe the containers.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

A junk drawer isn't a failure. It just needs a container for each family and a monthly check.

YOUR CHECKLIST IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

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

ROOM BY ROOM · KITCHEN · CHECKLIST

The Junk Drawer Checklist

STARTED _____ DONE _____

- [ ] Take out your junk drawer, or drawers, and dump it out.
- [ ] Clean out the drawer itself. Dump all those little bits and wipe it clean.
- [ ] Sort through all of that stuff and separate it into things that can be rehomed and things that need to stay. Throw out any trash.
- [ ] Put the things you're keeping on a counter and sort them by family.
- [ ] Think about how to organize your drawer. Do you need drawer organizers or dividers?
- [ ] Place each group, or family, in its own container, or home.
- [ ] Place all the containers in the drawer, with the ones you use most closest to you.
- [ ] Assign a day of the month to review the contents of the drawer and clean the containers if needed.

NOTES

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