ROOM BY ROOM · LIVING SPACES

How to Organize the Living Room

How to clear the living room, finish what's undone and keep it guest-ready.

WHERE TO START

Walk the room with a basket and remove anything that doesn't belong in it.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ☐ A basket for things to rehome
- ☐ Duster and cloth
- ☐ Vacuum or broom

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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

The method

1. **Set up four boxes**
   Label them Toss, Donate, Keep and Relocate. Every item goes into one of them, so nothing ends up in a new pile.
2. **Empty it completely**
   Take everything out and set it on a cleared table or counter. You can't organize around things you haven't seen.
3. **Clean before anything goes back**
   Wipe the shelves, drawers and surfaces and sweep the floor while the space is empty.
4. **Group like with like**
   Sort what you're keeping into families. Seeing all of one kind together shows you how much you really have.
5. **Give every family a home**
   What you use most goes closest to hand. Add containers and labels only once you know what stays.
6. **Close the session**
   Take out the trash, put the donations in your car and return every Relocate item to its room before you stop.

In this room

Finish what's undone

Pictures waiting to be hung, curtains to change. Now is the time.

Create zones

A place to watch TV, a reading corner, a corner for guests.

Clear before you clean

Rehome first, then dust and vacuum.

KEEP IT THAT WAY

Take one day a week for a quick run-through: clear, wipe and vacuum.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

A guest-ready room is mostly a room with nothing extra in it.

YOUR CHECKLIST IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

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

ROOM BY ROOM · LIVING SPACES · CHECKLIST

The Living Room Checklist

STARTED _____ DONE _____

- [ ] Remove anything that doesn't belong in this room and put it where it belongs.
- [ ] Wipe or dust all the surfaces.
- [ ] Vacuum and/or sweep the floors.
- [ ] Is anything undone in this space? Are there pictures waiting to be hung, or curtains to be changed? Now is the time.
- [ ] Create zones to keep things organized. A TV-watching area, a reading corner and a space for guests will bring peace to this room.
- [ ] Keep your living room guest-ready by taking a day each week for a quick run-through: remove unnecessary items, wipe the surfaces, and sweep and/or vacuum the floors.

NOTES

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