

Go small
or go
home



Home Inspiration 2



Get out
House to Home 5



Not as
seen on
TV



Jane Veldhoven is a professional organizer with her own company — Get Organized.

10 tips to organize your home this spring

Continued from page 3

1) The most important part of an organizing project is to determine a goal. Ask yourself: Why do I want to get organized?

2) Remember having an organized home is more about the way it functions than the way it looks.

"Don't be deceived by what you see on TV," Veldhoven said. "It's normally not possible for people to keep it looking like that; organizing is more about making the space work than all the pretty labels."

3) There is no such thing as being perfectly organized.

"That's what stresses a lot of people out; it can't be perfect. In our business, we find that if I come in and transform a space like that for you, I'm still going to have to come in afterward and help you learn how to maintain it because what you're trying to do is break a lot of habits you've had for a long time."

4) The key to organizing is having a place for everything so you are able to find things when you need them.

5) Start with something small.

"If I'm going to re-organize an entire kitchen, I'm not going to expect to do it all at once. I think that's where a lot of people get frustrated and quit, because

they start something huge they can't finish. Start with one cupboard and when it's finished and clean and perfectly organized, you'll have something to show for your efforts."

6) When editing down your possessions, focus on what you use right now and what you really love.

7) Don't shop for containers or shelving until you have finished sorting and purging and have decided where you will store everything.

"We all want to do this because it's the most fun, but the trouble is, you bring the containers home and you go to put the stuff in it and it doesn't fit and then the container doesn't fit where you intended it to go either. It's important to measure the space as well."

8) Set 15 to 30 minutes aside EVERY day to pick up and put away — if your systems are successful, this should be quick and easy.

9) Set up a proper filing system for both paper and electronic files and use it faithfully. There is no point in keeping information if you can't find it again.

10) Establish the "one-in, one-out" rule.

"Everytime something new comes into your home, something old goes out."