

Tips from the Pros

- Evaluate summer clothes, equipment and supplies. If you have held onto something you did not use or wear this past summer, consider letting it go – donate or sell.

- The arrival of cooler weather makes fall the perfect time to organize your garage or attic.

- Evaluate your book collection.
 - Let go of books you have read, will never read or want to give to someone else to enjoy. How?
 - Scan your bookshelf.
 - Quickly (think – easy decisions) place a book in one of the three categories – read, will never read, friend.
 - Skip any book that causes you to ponder.
 - Take the books in the three stacks to a library, charitable organization, your child's school or to a friend.

- Contain ornaments in small plastic shoeboxes as an alternative to large ornament boxes. Store several shoeboxes in a larger plastic container. Why?
 - It is easier to decorate your Christmas tree. You do not waste time walking back and forth to a large ornament container. You simply hold a small shoebox in your hand and decorate.
 - Children can help you decorate. The shoebox is light enough for them to easily hold.

- Store colored candles separately. Colors will bleed onto other candles.

- Plan ahead. Storage containers sell out quickly. Some online sites already show items as sold out. Remember to first sort, count and measure the items you need to contain. You do not want to waste your time or money returning containers that do not fit the items you need to store. Click on the following link for more information:
www.housekeeping.com/od/productreviews/bb/plasticstorage.htm.

- Start a keepsake box for your children.
 - Store holiday decorations that your children made or were given to them.
 - Give the keepsake box to your adult children when they celebrate their first holiday in their own home.