

Simplicity Newsletter - September 2009

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"CA\$H FOR CLUTTER"

There are certain times of the year that people seem drawn to simplifying, de-junking and generally buffing up their homes and schedules. New Years with resolutions is probably tops, but spring-cleaning and the end of summer/back to school or work are close seconds. So join the busy throngs and purge your homes of unused clutter and your schedules of unnecessary and unloved obligations. We hope the following suggestions from Simplicity will inspire you.



The wildly popular program, "Cash for Clunkers" can be replicated on a more personal scale with Simplicity's "Cash for Clutter".

Our homes are filled with more unused and unwanted things than we care to admit. Take stock of your problem areas. Is it your kitchen, overflowing with empty CoolWhip containers and dusty bread machines? Or maybe it's your closet, 80% filled with things you haven't worn in years and are unlikely to ever wear again. What about the toys and baby gear that clog your den and garage- despite the fact your "baby" is starting school this month. If you've only got one problem area, consider yourself lucky. Start with the room or zone that is driving you crazy. Getting starting is the hard part. You'll quickly make progress and your success will compel you to continue.

Here are a few of Simplicity's favorite tips.

KEEP OR TOSS QUIZ:

If you're undecided about what to do with a particular item, it's probably something you could give away, throw away or sell, but you just can't bring yourself to do it. Ask yourself the following

Yes/No questions:

- Have I used this item in the past year?
- Will it be needed on a definite date in the future?
- Do I love it?

- Does this item serve a worthwhile purpose in my life?
- Do I need to keep it for legal or tax purposes?
- Is it more important to me to keep this item than to have the space it occupies?
- Does someone in my household love it?
- Would it be difficult or expensive for me to get another one?

Scoring: There are no right or wrong answers, but a “Yes” answer to any one of the above questions provides a sound reason to keep that item. If you answer “No” to every question, toss it.

CLOSET PURGING 101: *(with lots of credit to Tim Gunn)*



Clothes purging can be fraught with emotion. Here are a few thoughts and suggestions to help you keep your emotions in check and your closet project on track. You're not alone. Most women have a jam-packed closet but say they have little to wear. The old 80/20 rule applies to clothes. Most (80%) of the time, we wear a small portion (20%) of what we own. You should rid your closet of items that don't make you happy and confident. Just because you paid a lot of money for it, or it was a gift from your mother-in-law, doesn't mean you have to keep it. Learn from past mistakes. Don't beat yourself up over regrettable purchases, just figure out how not to make the same mistakes again. Buy clothes that fit the real you- not the fantasy you. Identify your personal style so that you're not a slave to fashion whims.

Find out how to get your "Practical Closet Re-Do in 4 Easy Piles" by reading the full [Closet Purging 101](#) article (PDF format).

Read other Closet Organization articles on the [Resources](#) page of the Simplicity website.

WHAT TO DO WITH THIS STUFF?

Some of your purges will be trash, but much of what you no longer want can be converted to cash. A list of alternatives and consignment shops follows. Call ahead to verify that the shops are accepting new consignments and make an appointment. Clothing (adult and children), household furnishings and sports equipment can all be consigned.

Your house will be neater, your life will be saner and your wallet will be fatter.

When you have sorted the "wheat from the chaff", consider these alternatives:

- [Wallace's Wearhouse Fall/Winter Fashion Consignment Sale](#) - consign and buy women's and children's fashions, Sept 21, 22 & 24, 2009. Visit the Simplicity [Events](#) page for more details.
- [eBay](#) - online marketplace.
- [Craigslist.org](#) - like eBay but local.
- Freecycle - like eBay but local and FREE.
- [Sweet Repeats Boutique](#) - women's clothing consignment.
- [Classic Attic](#) - antiques and fine-home furnishings consignment.
- [Very Terry Contemporary Consignments](#) - women's clothing consignment.
- [Recycle Boutique](#) - clothing, furniture, jewelry consignment.

- [Dress for Success](#) - for work wardrobes in good condition.
- Yard or garage sale - you can manage it yourself or hire someone to help run it.
- [Cash 4 Books](#) - sell your good condition books.
- [Gazelle](#) - get cash for your electronic gadgets and cell phones.
- [Automotive Consignment](#) - simple, convenient and affordable way to sell (or buy) cars.

If sentimentality trumps cash, giving your cherished items to friends and loved ones will satisfy the sentimentalist.

If you own a valuable collection, you'll need to decide if you want to leave a public or a private legacy. For example, a museum or institution would love to receive the set of Audubon prints (and would reward you with a generous tax deduction and public recognition). Alternatively, you could break up the set among children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. There is no right or wrong answer, but it's important to know there are alternatives and that you have control over where your treasured possessions are directed.

- Estate Sale - for valuable household possessions.
- [International Society of Appraisers](#) - professional personal property appraisers.
- [The Estate Lady](#) - for help with estate sales, personal property appraisals, liquidations, and removal of home contents.
- Children and grandchildren - who are establishing homes of their own and would have a sentimental attachment to the items.
- Friends - invite them over and let them pick something of yours that they love and that will remind them of your friendship.
- Libraries and schools - for books you no longer want or need.
- Museums - for a bona fide collection (consult appraiser) of art, coins, etc. that you want to remain intact.
- Re-gifting - can be done tastefully. The beautiful sterling silver gravy boat you're never again going to use, would make a lovely wedding gift.

Good luck on "Cash for Clutter". If Simplicity can help, we're just a call away.

GET YOUR "What's Up Charlotte!" Events & Performing Arts Calendars TODAY!

Get your "What's Up Charlotte" Events & Performing Arts Calendar while supplies last! It's a calendar LOADED with events in Charlotte for the next 12 months! The who, what, where & when in ONE place! PLUS the contact information for the top Mommy Venues in town for sunny days, rainy days or a day trip away! Even if you can't go to everything, at least knowing the events actually occurred can help you feel "in the loop!" Cost \$15.00 with \$1.00 of each calendar donated to [The Relatives](#) on East Blvd in Charlotte, NC. E-mail Lori Martin of [The Purple Martin & Co.](#) at thepurplemartin@bellsouth.net for your calendar today!



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Gift certificates are available for all Simplicity services. Give the gift of organization to someone special in your life. For more details visit the [Simplicity website](#) or contact Simplicity today.