



NEAT FREAK NEWS: March 2006

IS AN ORGANIZED LIFE ONLY FOR THE RICH & FAMOUS?

I often hear from friends and clients that they want to get organized, but it just costs so darn much. How will they ever afford the leather bound magazine holders, the custom closet systems, or the beautiful raffia basket set? The Neat Freak is here to remind you that the journey to organization is more about the systems you build than the products you buy.

First, consider the cost of being disorganized. How often do you repurchase an item simply because you misplaced the original? Do you ever pay a late fee for a bill that ended up on the bottom of the paper pile? Or have you missed an investment opportunity because your paperwork is out of hand? A lost check or gift certificate is just money down the drain. And what about your valuable time---how quickly does that get thrown away when looking for a lost or misplaced item? Getting organized can actually SAVE you money!

Second, consider that many organizational tools are FREE. Your home may not look like the images in the Hold Everything catalog, but the objective is to function well, not just create a pretty picture. Shoeboxes, copier paper boxes, film canisters and baby food jars all make great organizational tools. The first step is to de-clutter, getting rid of items you don't need, use or love. Then use organizational tools you already have around the house to hold the items you need to hang on to.

Hiring an organizer may seem like a luxury, but a professional can actually help you save time and money as well. In addition to committing your time to the task at hand, you're hiring an objective person to help sort, purge, assign a home, and containerize the items in your home or office. An organizer will also help you decide on the appropriate containers and tools so you don't end up purchasing twelve different plastic bins before you find the one that really works for you. And you'll receive creative ideas for using the items and the space you already have so you don't have to purchase numerous products to get and stay organized.

And if that's not convincing enough, consider my client who found a \$1500 check hidden in a pile of old papers, or my client who discovered a missing \$5000 watch in an old cell phone box. I think they'll agree that the cost of getting organized was worth every penny!

FREAKIE FREEBIES

Spring fling tips...

Remember the carefree days when spring fling meant spontaneously jumping in the car and heading for warmer climates? Here's a slightly less exciting, but equally inspiring type of spring fling you can do today. Set a kitchen timer for 30 minutes, turn on some fun tunes, and start flinging. By that, I mean walk around your house, room to room, and attempt to get rid of, or fling, 30 objects that you no longer need, use or love. This could be paper, magazines, broken toys, clothes you never wear, cosmetics you never use, broken items you don't intend to repair...anything is fair game! At the end of the 30 minutes, pour yourself a cool drink and bask in the glow of a less cluttered home.