

# Duluthian has tips for getting organized

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Duluthian Kim Schlichting-Yeakle has tips for getting organized this spring

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What would you grab if your house was on fire? Spouse? Children? Pets? The rest is just “stuff,” right? Our homes are filled with things we rarely use. Start spring cleaning with a purge of unused items. Here’s how to start:

## Take a Walk

Walk through your house. Ask yourself what’s really important? Think of the basic needs: food, water, clothing and shelter. Where do your collections fit into that? Do your possessions add to your life or subtract? Are they assets or liabilities? Do you love and use them? Surround yourself only with things you love and that enhance your life.

## Give it Up

Ask, “What is the worst that could happen if I got rid of (insert item here)?”

If you feel guilty discarding a gift, you aren’t giving away that person’s love, and someone else could use that “gift.” Give it to a thrift shop. Give yourself permission to let go.

## Out of the Closet

A neat trick: Hang all your clothes backward (clothes hanger hook facing out). When you wear an item, place it back the usual way. At the end of the season, donate or discard any items that are still hanging backward.

## Box it Up

All you need are some boxes and markers. Start with four boxes labeled: “keep,” “donate”, “sell,” and “toss.” Then start filling them.

## Paper Works

Begin by picking up one document and asking these questions:

- Does this require an action?
- Is this difficult to get again?
- Does this have a specific use?
- Is this recent?
- Does it contain any tax or legal implications?

File these records accordingly or toss them. Consult a tax or financial planner for legal stipulations with regard to financial record storage.

Get your home in order. You’ll feel better and save time, frustration, and money. What are you waiting for? De-clutter and get organized!

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