

Have Fun Getting Organized



OK, it may be hard to imagine how organizing can be fun; for some, it is very far from their truth. But, in fact, **it's very possible to lighten up while you are decluttering and organizing.** It's even recommended!

Here are ways to inject some fun into your decluttering and getting-organized journey:

- **Collect pictures of spaces that inspire you.** Display them and visualize a home or office space for yourself where you are productive and doing what you love. Ah, space to breathe!
- **Put on lively upbeat music to keep you moving as you declutter and tackle tedious organizing tasks.** Marilyn Paul, who wrote the wonderful book "It's Hard to Make a Difference When You Can't Find Your Keys," has a version of this called **decluttering aerobics!** In addition to the music, she recommends putting on workout shoes, doing warm-up exercises before your tasks, and even adding a few more jumping jacks or other exercises whenever your energy is flagging!
- **Find a friend or family member to help you with organizing** and then return the favor. These tasks are always more fun and easier with the assistance (or even just the presence) of another person.
- **Set a timer and make a game out of your organizing tasks.** See what you can accomplish in a small amount of time. (This is a great tip for getting children to put things away at the end of an activity or the end of the day.)

Karen G. Kramer - Space to Breathe
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- **Pretend that you are moving!** Give yourself a deadline and declutter as if you were packing to move. As you imagine what is given permission to come to your new home, you'll be surprised what you can donate or throw away.
- **Buy yourself some colorful, attractive organizing containers and supplies.** Indeed managing your papers is more fun when your file folders are ones that are in your style and make you smile. Or, **repurpose household items for your organizing tasks:** Use a silver serving tray as an in-box, a ceramic flowerpot as a holder for items on their way out, or a glass vase for your pens and pencils.
- **Ask for decluttering and organizing assistance as a birthday or special occasion gift,** a gift that truly keeps on giving. Who needs more stuff?!
- **Give yourself credit and rewards for whatever small steps you take.**
- **Share your success.** Take a picture of your cleared desk or decluttered closet, and send it to a supportive friend (or to me!) Let us know if you found anything interesting or important when you decluttered and organized your space.

Try one or two of these tips, and have some fun getting organized! Also, see these related articles on the "Advice" page of my website: **The Benefits of Getting (More) Organized,** and **Motivating Yourself to Get Organized.**