

Summer Organizing Tips



With our improved weather and longer, lighter days, **summer is a great time for getting organized.** We often have a little more time and energy in the summer months. Use them to get to some of the de-cluttering and organizing projects you have been putting off. You will be glad you did!

- **Now is a good time for end-of-school-year projects:** go through your child's papers and artwork for the school year - weeding and saving just a few of the best things. You could do it with your own papers, too! Less is more. Similarly, it's a good time to clean your kids' rooms - passing along clothes and toys they've outgrown and donating to children in need.
- **Take advantage of the better weather and clean out your garage.** The garage is an important storage center for our homes, as well as our "welcome" when coming home - we benefit from it being de-cluttered, clean, and orderly.
- **Summer is a great time for disposing of things:** you can have a yard sale - if you are so inclined - otherwise, it's an easy time to deliver your donations to charity, or to offer things on www.freecycle.org (for pick-up at your curb or doorstep). For a complete list of Resources for Charitable Donations, see my website's Advice page.
- **There is a lot of available labor over the summer.** Many teens are looking for work. Hire them for everything from moving furniture to data-base entry. You can even pay your own kids to help you with organizing projects.
- **If you are traveling, make a list of everything you are taking.** It will make your travel preparations so much easier next time. You can keep the list on the computer for easy updating - some people create different versions for warmer and colder destinations.

Devote some of your summer time, even some of your summer vacation time, to organizing projects. **Clearing clutter and organizing can make your home feel more vacation-like. . . . year round!**

"Green" Organizing Tips for Summer:

1. **Take advantage of Toxic Waste days at your local dump, and "yard waste" collection.** See www.earth911.com for resources.
2. **Compost.** For advice about getting started, see the "**Composting**" article in the "Ways To Help The Environment" section on Advice page of my website.
3. Also in the "Ways to Help the Environment" section on my website's Advice page, see articles about "**Alternatives to Lawn Pesticides,**" and "**Saving Energy in the Warmer Weather.**"