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Working from the inside out

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Looking around my house this morning, I see a sea of clutter. I won't post a photo since this is one scene that shouldn't be documented. This may seem odd since I've been posting about how I've been organizing my life. However, to me, getting things in order always starts in the closets, in kitchen cabinets, dresser drawers and filing cabinets. I work from the inside out.

This means that after days of organization the house looks worse than when I started, since all the stuff I've removed from storage places is now in plain view as I decide the next step. Do I take it to Goodwill, throw it out, save it for the annual church yard sale or relocate it to a more suitable place.

Assorted paperwork, photos, CDs, DVDs are also in plain view as I plan their appropriate location for easy retrieval or purge the data as no longer relevant.

The benefit of this mindset is that if I'm ever looking for a particular photo from years gone by, a receipt or document or that red blouse I bought at the end of season sale, I know exactly where it is.

The downside is that the transition stage is very messy as any visitor to my house can see. My Dad once commented that if a burglar ever broke in, he would leave immediately thinking that someone had already ransacked the place. Dad always had an interesting way with words.

I'm doing that on a personal level too. Now that I'm back to my SP routine, I'm focused on MY inside. I'm working on my fitness/endurance and those rehab exercises for my shoulder. I'm taking inventory of my pantry & freezer, planning supermarkets visits and meals that my nutrition tracker would approve of.

Eventually, my house clutter will disappear or at least be reduced to a level I can live with. I never expect to be visited by House Beautiful magazine.

I'm working toward a similar result on a personal level – maintenance – not perfect but a result I can live with.

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MJZHERE

Again, we are in very similar places as I am doing much of what you are right now. This is also how I reorganize. One time we went out of town while I was in the middle of it. While away our



house flooded and the insurance people sent in contractors to clear away while we were gone. Since then I try to keep the mess down some while in this process, but right now many of my rooms are torn apart while I work on the situation. Also meal planning and on my to do list: defrost freezer and take inventory. I notice that travel seems to spur me onto organizational goals once I get home.
2802 days ago



MERRYMARY42

sounds like me doing a through house cleaning, I can't start and finish one room at a time, I start in every room, and until it is finished, wow, it is very bad, but, it goes from awful to awesome in the blink of an eye, or that is how it seems
2803 days ago



DOVESEYES

Another great blog thanks for sharing. It is so apt to compare the two, it takes a lot of work to make the changes we need to get to maintenance and also constant vigilance in our homes as well.

Very thought provoking!!!!
2803 days ago



MARYJEANSL

That's very impressive. I wish I could be as organized - no matter how it looks on a temporary basis!
2803 days ago



RIBKNIT

I'm going through the same process, at home and within me. Nice to know I'm not alone in it.
2803 days ago



4A-HEALTHY-BMI

I also find that managing my physical environment has parallels with managing my physical size and health. And I think they actually reinforce each other, too.

http://www.sparkpeople.com/mypage_public_journal_individual.asp?blog_id=5139440
2803 days ago



WILSONWR

You have so much energy - I am impressed! You do have to mess things up a little to make things better. I've found that true in all walks of life. Great job in tackling such a large project!
2803 days ago



CD13136117

Great action steps - both for you and your household. Thanks for sharing another great blog and all the best!
2804 days ago



CD12146214

Totally agree with the last statement about not be perfect but finding a balance that you can live with for the remainder.
2804 days ago



SLIMMERJESSE

I'm like that as well. It's comfortable sometimes.
2804 days ago



BAZOOKABOBCAT

I am the least organized person on earth. Good for you for doing your best to get it in order! I wish I could say I was doing the same! hahaha.
2804 days ago




WATERMELLEN

Inside out is always the way to significant change -- and always as you say a messy process.
But throwing stuff into a drawer (literally or metaphorically) just gets it out of sight, right?
2804 days ago



WALKINGSPARK


2804 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

OH, my goodness... I hear you... about the transition phase of "organizing" or re-organizing as





the case may be. Unfortunately, when I'm focussed on "other things" my piles of unmade decisions grow exponentially... no House Beautiful visits here, either!
2804 days ago



FITFOODIE806

I like this: "maintenance but not perfect."
2804 days ago



NELLJONES

I tend to do this job one closet at a time. I love your father's comment.
2804 days ago



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