

Using Old Containers For Clutter Control

Tired of the clutter in several areas of your house but not sure how to tame it? Wanting to corral your clutter but feeling overwhelmed by the cost of organizing materials? Look to items you already have (or can buy at yard sales for little cost) to do the job. Plus, you'll be adding decorating elements at the same time.

In the bathroom, use baskets, old mugs, old cups, old bowls, or any interesting container you have to hold beauty and other bathroom essentials. By placing the normal "collection of items" that tend to collect in this one small area into a few well chosen containers, it will mean less "spread" over the counter and will make for easy clearing of the counter for cleaning times. See our [Organizing The Bathroom Counter](#) article for a few specific bathroom organizing ideas.

For kitchen utensils that are used frequently, place them into an open-topped container that is tall enough to keep the utensils upright. Short pitchers, sturdy mid-height vases, or other tall containers are good choices. Place the container near the stove and the utensils are easy to find and handy to reach when cooking.



Instead of leaving breakfast bars and snack bars in the original boxes, find a shallow square or rectangular container from your cabinet. By standing the bars on the short end, two or more boxes of the bars can usually be placed into the container. That will save on space and let you know at a glance what needs replenished. Plus – no stray bars scattered across the counter or shelf.

For bananas and other fruit that sit on the counter, consider placing them in a bowl that you already have in the cabinet. The bowl can be periodically changed to another one, providing a decorating update as well.

Use a square or rectangular basket or other container to hold bills, stamps, the checkbook, envelopes, address labels, and a pen. If the container has room, also stash other correspondence items in it such as notepaper, postcards, or post office forms. Since all the items are in one location, it can be stored in a close but low-traffic area. If the container has a handle, that makes it even easier to carry to the "work" area when the items are needed.



Pens, pencils, highlighters, permanent markers, scissors, hole punches, rulers, paperclips, push pins, and more are handy when kept in mugs, cups, glass jars, or even decorative tins. Place the containers in each spot where you need the items. Plain glass jars can be decorated, or use jars with an interesting shape. For examples of how I keep my pens, pencils, and scissors in organized "centers" see our [Organizing Pens And Pencils](#) article.

Consider placing smaller containers inside of larger containers. For instance, place one mug with writing tools and scissors along with another mug or small container of various-sized paper clips into a rectangular container. Add sticky note pads, a stapler, a staple remover, a glue stick, a correction-fluid bottle or correction-tape stick, a ruler, and a small flashlight – instant desk set.

About The Author

Marie Rice is the founder and editor of PartOfTheWhole.com - wellness for body, mind, and spirit. She enjoys helping others reach their goals. When she's not online, Marie's spending time with her family, gardening, doing crafts, or **most likely** – reading a book!

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