

Wednesday | September 28, 2011

18 Clever Organizing Tricks and Storage Ideas

Combat clutter with ordinary household items used in unexpected ways.

Use a Tissue Box

Dispense plastic grocery bags **with ease** by stuffing **empties** into an old tissue box stored under the sink; simply pull out one when you need it. For a slimmer solution, try a **cardboard paper-towel tube**.

*with ease: easily

*empties: things (such as bottles or cans) that are empty



Use Shower Curtain Hooks

If space allows, place hooks on a closet bar and hang purses from them to keep your **carryalls** at **eye level**. Say good-bye to a mess of accessories on your closet floor.

*carryalls: bags or carrying cases

*eye level: a level that is as high as a person's eyes



Use a Dish-Drying Rack

Keep coloring books and art supplies organized in a dish-drying rack. Stack the books, like plates, between the **prongs**. Store markers, crayons, and pencils in the **utensil caddy**.



Use Hangers

Keep individual sheets of wrapping paper **crease-free** by clipping them to a pants or skirt hanger. Do the same with gift bags, or loop their handles over the hook of the hanger. (You can also use a **shoe organizer**: Stash scissors, tape, gift tags, and other decorating supplies inside the compartments.)

*crease: a line or mark made by folding, pressing, or crushing something (such as cloth or a piece of paper)



Use a Paper Towel Holder

Marathon gift wrapping? For easy access to ribbon, slide **spools** onto a paper towel stand's post. Stack them from largest to smallest, bottom to top. When done, tape the ribbon ends to their spools to keep them neat.



Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. What **two** objects can be used to organize extra plastic bags?

2. Why is it beneficial to be able to keep your carryalls at **eye level**?

3. How can a dish-drying rack be useful for organizing coloring books and art supplies?

4. Imagine that you had a space like the picture in the "Use Hangers" section. How would *you* organize the following supplies?

- gift boxes
- painter sleeves
- paint brushes
- glue bottles
- cutting mats
- construction paper
- posters
- craft knives

5. In **what order** should ribbon spools be stacked?
