

AUSTRALIAN

80+ STORAGE SOLUTIONS YOU'LL LOVE - AND USE!

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HOUSE & GARDEN

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Creating
SPACE

EASY STEPS TO A CLEAR, CALM & CLUTTER-FREE LIFE



Special report NEAT TRICKS

An organised home takes effort but clever systems make the job a whole lot easier. Set them up thoughtfully and a well-oiled household is within your reach, writes **Sarah Pickette**.

There is no 'one size fits all' approach to setting up and maintaining an organised home. But one thing all organised homes have in common is this: they save time and prevent stress. We asked the experts for their tips on how they create a place for everything – and have everything in its place. ►



TOP TIP Living spaces can quickly fill up with everyone's clutter. After dinner, set a timer for five minutes and ask each member of the household to chip in and tidy up in that time, so the responsibility for it doesn't fall to just one overworked person.





Shelves above a built-in seat make an attractive feature. Add baskets for bits and pieces, either under the seat or doubling as bookends on shelves.

LIVING AREAS

- ✚ **Look to the coffee table** “When we design living areas for family homes, we love coffee tables with drawers underneath or with a shelf for storing boxes. Big trays on coffee tables keep loose items organised and avoid smaller items looking messy.” *Leigh Boswell, interior designer, Highgate House*
- ✚ **Clean the slate** “My biggest organising tip is to do a quick check of your living areas before you go to bed. Make sure the floors and surfaces are clear so you don’t wake to any mess in the morning. This is a good mood-lifting habit to get into.” *Toni Coates, professional organiser, The Coat Box*

KITCHEN

- ✚ **Make kitchen hardware work hard** “I love telescopic runners, which extend out fully and allow you access to everything in your cupboards and drawers. I’m also a huge fan of putting Blum’s Servo-Drive on an integrated kitchen bin. This electronic opening system means you can operate it without putting grubby hands on the joinery. A tap of your knee and the bin opens and closes.” *Mikayla Rose, interior designer, Heartly*
- ✚ **Love a clear benchtop?** “Installing a Zip or Billi tap, which provides instant boiling water, will allow you to get rid of the kettle.” *Leigh Boswell, Highgate House*



Photograph by Jacqui Way/bauersyndication.com.au (bookshelves) & Maree Homer (office).

ORGANISED BY DESIGN



Tall, slim pull-out pantry drawers that fit neatly between your cabinetry and fridge, such as this one from Blum, will keep tins, packets and boxes orderly.



Lazy susans that turn tricky corner cupboards into useful spots, corner drawers (like this clever design at left, also from Blum), undersink baskets and pull-out plate racks... there is a brilliant range of solution-based storage products on the market. To see what might suit your kitchen layout, have a look at blum.com or tansel.com.au.

Last but not least... Invest in good-quality telescopic runners for cabinetry, such as those by Kaboodle, whose hardware products are tested 80,000 times to ensure they’ll be up to the job in your home.

Building overhead cabinets right up to the ceiling, as in this project by Kinsman, is a great way to maximise storage; kinsman.com.au.

HOME OFFICE

- ✚ **Have processes for paper** “Every piece of paper you bring into your home is effectively a to-do item so you’ll need some good collection points. For example, school notes could be pinned on a board above the bag rack or placed in a tray in the kitchen. This way, everyone in the family puts things in the same place.” *Georgie Rees, professional organiser, Clutterfly*
- ✚ **Hide everything away** “Include a tall cupboard in the home office and close it off with a bifold door. This allows you easy access but hides away your printer and other unsightly items.” *Mikayla Rose, Heartly*
- ✚ **Do your research** Turn to page 57 for a full rundown on how to create a well-hidden home office.



HALLWAYS & STAIRS

- ✚ **Nick space for a nook** “If you don’t have an entire room you can dedicate to a home office, how about tucking a study nook into your hallway?” suggests Mikayla Rose. There will be less foot traffic and distraction than if it were located in the kitchen.
- ✚ **Put your hallway to good use...** “The area by the front door can become a useful storage point,” advises Leigh Boswell. “A slim table with a spot to hold your keys can be handy, but if space is tight a couple of wall hooks and an umbrella or coat stand is a good option.”
- ✚ **...but keep it neat** “The staircase or hallway is often the first space visitors to your house will see,” says Toni Coates. “By all means include some storage for shoes and jackets, but because first impressions do count it’s good to ensure this area is kept quite clear. ▶



TOP TIP DO AS BUILDER ZENYA ADDERLEY OF HENARISE DID IN THE SYDNEY HOME ABOVE: DESIGN STORAGE INTO STAIR RISERS. IT’S AN IDEAL WAY TO USE OTHERWISE ‘DEAD’ SPACE.

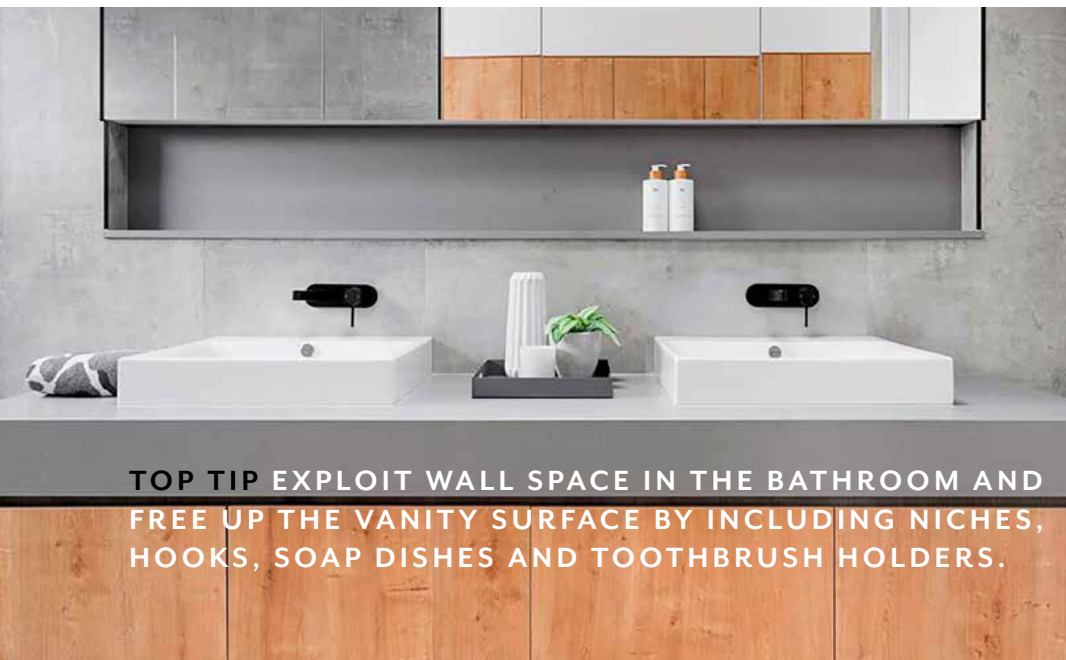
BATHROOM

- ✦ **Shave some space** “Shaving cabinets provide critical storage for toiletries. You might think a shallow cabinet isn’t that useful, but there’s value in having a spot where you can store your deodorant or mouthwash upright, instead of having it roll around a drawer. When I’m designing a shaving cabinet, I like to recess it. My measure of depth is, can a roll of toilet paper be stored in there?” *Mikayla Rose*
- ✦ **Maximise drawer space** “Choosing a vanity unit with generous drawer space helps you to keep your bathroom super organised. Drawers allow you to avoid that wasted space in the out-of-reach sections of cupboards, as well as providing a bird’s-eye view of the

drawer contents, making it much easier to find specific items at a glance.”

Daniela Santilli, bathroom marketing lead, Reece

- ✦ **Do well with one wall** “My tip for a well-organised small bathroom is to have the fixtures all located along one wall. That maximises the sense of space and makes it feel well ordered. While you’re discussing your prospective bathroom layout, think of absolutely everything it has to accommodate, from toothbrushes to loo rolls, so that it’s all designed in. And before you bring anything into your new bathroom, you need to sort, sort, sort. Then do that again every six months.” *Darren Genner, bathroom designer, Minosa*



TOP TIP EXPLOIT WALL SPACE IN THE BATHROOM AND FREE UP THE VANITY SURFACE BY INCLUDING NICHES, HOOKS, SOAP DISHES AND TOOTHBRUSH HOLDERS.



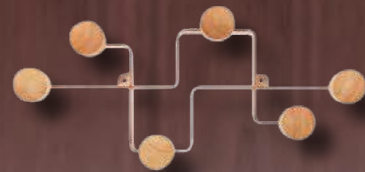
LAUNDRY

- ✦ **Hang tough** “One of the hardest-working elements in any laundry would be the hanging rail, where ironed clothes can be placed. It’s an inclusion you’ll never regret.” *Leigh Boswell*
- ✦ **Put the kids to work** “I like to include big drawers for dirty washing and smaller drawers with baskets in which to sort clean children’s clothes. Then they can take the basket to their room and put everything away.” *Leigh Boswell*
- ✦ **Keep it clean and tidy** “Is a towering Mt Washmore, as those piles of clean but unsorted washing are known, ever present in your home? Allocate cupboard space in your laundry to hide the pile away when you need to.” *Amelia Lee, architect, Undercover Architect*

TOP TIP If space allows, sort dirty washing in the laundry. This will prevent you from getting distracted or sidetracked, and get the job done faster.

BEDROOMS

- ✦ **Reach for a hook** “I have a couple of favourite organising tricks. One is to use belt/scarf hangers for hanging bras. Another is using adhesive hooks to utilise the vertical space on the inside of cupboard and wardrobe doors. Use them to hang bags, swimming goggles, scarves and hats.” *Toni Coates*



- ✦ **Clear out the clothes** “If you don’t have space for all your clothes in the bedroom, consider storing seasonal clothes in high cupboards or roof space. Are you someone who drapes clothes over a chair? You might benefit from a couple of hooks. Last but definitely not least, make the bed! A bedroom looks so much tidier when the bed is made.” *Amelia Lee*

TOP TIP *Utilise the space under your bed. If there isn’t enough height to create adequate storage space, consider buying bed risers. Find them at Bunnings, Ikea or online at bedrisers.com.au.*



Wardrobe wisdom

“Futureproof wardrobes by adding more space than you think you need. Hanging rails for pants are a handy inclusion; it’s a good use of space to have them hanging at half-height.” *Matt Rushton, design manager, Kinsman Wardrobes*

Photography courtesy Reece (bathroom), Anson Smart/bauersyndication.com.au (laundry) & Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au (mother and child). Hooks, Freedom. Wardrobes, Kinsman.



ORDERLY MANNER

Keen to put your own home in order? There’s much to be learnt from the habits of highly organised people...

- 1 They prioritise storage.** “We want all the spaces we design to be beautiful and make their owners feel good,” says Mikayla Rose, interior designer and owner of Heartly in Melbourne. “In the early stages of the design phase, it’s important that we understand how people live and how they see their belongings being stored. Everyone is different in what works for them. Personally, I dream of a wrapping-paper drawer!” *heartly.com.au*
- 2 They plan ahead.** “This is the most important part of being organised,” says Toni Coates, professional organiser and owner of Perth’s The Coat Box. “Listing everything on a calendar, be it digital or paper, is crucial. I use digital and receive alerts, but reinforce this on paper so the whole family can look at the calendar and know what’s coming up and when.” *thecoatbox.com.au*
- 3 They move stuff on – quickly.** “Have a designated spot for items you want to donate. For example, a box in the car boot means it’s already there next time you’re near a charity shop,” says Georgie Rees, home-organisation specialist at Sydney’s Clutterfly. “Plan to declutter around your council’s pick-up dates; then your rubbish won’t hang around for too long.” *clutterfly.com.au* **H&G**

Quick tricks

- ✦ Standard-size children’s water bottles will fit nicely into a magazine holder, which can be stashed in a cupboard.
- ✦ Old CD racks work a treat for storing small lids of containers and lunchboxes.
- ✦ In the shed, add metal hooks to a simple, sturdy towel rail for hanging small tools.