

## 'Tis the Season

FOR SPRING CLEANING AND ORGANIZING  
WITH TIPS, TRICKS AND TOOLS FROM THE PROS  
BY SHERI RADFORD

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Call it (and us) cliché, but spring does feel like the perfect time to thoroughly clean up, organize and spruce up one's home décor with a new well-chosen piece, or two. This year in particular, the season feels like a welcome new beginning after a very, very long winter (you know, one with no tropical vacation to break it up). One person who agrees with this sentiment is Jen Rowe, who has a natural knack for calmly conquering chaos. It's what she does all day as owner of **Neat Method Toronto**, a luxury home-organizing company. According to Rowe, all the time spent working and schooling at home in 2020 has led several of her clients to seek change. "They've started noticing things that are bugging them about their space, or things that were bugging them before have become escalated," she says.

The first step in getting organized, she continues, is pulling all of the items out of an area and cleaning the hard-to-reach spots there that rarely get done thoroughly—behind a desk, at the back of a closet, in the bottom of a drawer. It's also an opportune time to clean rugs. Tara Fraser of **East India Carpets** recommends her clients have their rugs done annually by a professional cleaner like Vancouver's **East & West**.

Next, divide items into categories and edit out whatever you don't like, don't use or have duplicates of. Rowe says everything in one category should be grouped in a "container of some sort, whether that be a drawer insert or a bin or a basket or even a turntable or a tiered riser in a cupboard," adding that "reducing visual clutter is the ultimate goal." She also recommends asking, "Do I have items that I use together stored near each other? In a kitchen, for example, are my mugs near my coffee maker and my coffee?"

Michelle Addison, a personal stylist who offers personal shopping and wardrobe editing, is also a fan of pulling everything out "from every nook and cranny" before culling and categorizing, then storing items away again. Spring, she says, is the ideal time to try on all clothing and footwear, get rid of anything that no longer fits and store away heavy sweaters and winter boots till fall. Her top storage tip for small city condos?



PHOTO: TRINA TURL

"**Ikea** flat boxes," for making use of the space under beds and couches.

Addison's other best piece of advice is to invest in shoe drawers in your clothing closet, so footwear can be planned as part of each outfit instead of being a mere afterthought. The wrong shoe, she warns, "makes your outfit look really dated."

As alluded to above, most of us have saved a bundle on travel and entertainment over the past year, which could justify splurging on storage containers and shoe drawers. Or, to help keep your home tidy and organized, that splurge may look like a more substantial furniture purchase, such as a sleek and sophisticated **Herman Miller** Airia media cabinet from **LivingSpace**, with its cork-lined drawers, or a gorgeous **Park Lane** storage cabinet from **Roche Bobois**, with Art Deco sensibility.

Or, the splurge could be on something small but imminently practical, such as a file box or desktop organizer from the **Oui x Bigso** storage collection at **Indigo**. A visit to **Room in Order** unearths everything you could possibly imagine for home organizing, from the Zina magazine rack by **Umbra** (also useful for wrangling vinyl records) to the very clever Swivo side table by the same brand, which has two tabletops that swivel, a middle rack that can store magazines or a throw and a small base that can easily slide under a couch or chair, to minimize the overall footprint.

That splurge could also be on something that adds a soothing aroma to your newly refreshed home, such as the Aroma Om diffuser from **Saje**. It purifies the air using natural essential oil blends—and smells really good.

According to Rowe, "People hold stress related to the state of their dwelling that they don't even realize." After the year we've all had, don't we deserve a home that looks and feels (and yes, even smells) better? ♥

## Tips for Tidying

- Start small, by tidying a hall closet or even a single drawer, to build your confidence.
- Label bins and baskets with what goes in them, to help both household residents and guests.
- Do a 10-minute tidy every evening before turning in for the night. Even kids can help with this (particularly those looking to prolong bedtime)!

## Suck it Up

Looking for a standout (and standup) vacuum? The **Dyson V11 Outsize** (\$1,100), one of the brand's newer models, has twice the suction of any other cordless vacuum, up to 120 minutes of fade-free run time, a 150 per cent bigger bin and a 25 per cent wider cleaner-head. In other words, it's the perfect piece to complete your spring-clean puzzle. **701 W. Georgia St., 604-670-1135. [Dysoncanada.ca](http://Dysoncanada.ca)**



## Cleaner Cleaning

Many household cleansers aren't healthy for people, pets or the environment. In contrast, Vancouver-based **Saje Natural Wellness** makes all-natural products. One favourite is Multi Clean (\$30), an all-purpose spray that conquers dirt and grime like a champ but also smells wonderful, thanks to lavender, peppermint and rosemary oils. **2252 W. 4th Ave., 604-738-7253. [Saje.com](http://Saje.com)**



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