



15 Organizing Tips for Apartment Living: Cara Marks; Can Do Organizing and More

1. **Drop Zone** – Right inside the door, sitting bench with storage for shoes and basket for keys and hook for backpack/purse and coat.
2. **Designated Spot** - Each item to have one place where it goes. In a small space, one will not need to keep 3 of each thing in 3 different places. There should be 1 and always put back in its one designated spot.
3. **It's Hidden but Not Lost** – Storage can be strategically used to hide needed items. Use compact box seats for storage and seating as well as an ottoman, a trunk as a coffee table, decorative baskets with lids for side tables, secretary type desks that close when not in use, multi-purpose Cube Storage with Fabric containers for TV stand, room divider, or bench seat. Use containers and baskets sparingly, with purpose and the right size to fit the items it was intended to house within them. Recommend labeled clear containers for storage closets and non-see through baskets for open room spaces.
4. **Keep items up off the floor** - Furniture with exposed legs and will create the illusion of space and tall items such as a console table make room for a storage ottoman or basket underneath.
5. **On a Roll** – Add wheels to items to make them easier to move around – coffee tables, storage file boxes, ottomans, dog food containers, tall laundry baskets, small storage cabinets, and butcher blocks.
6. **Where did that go?** – Choose products that breakdown or close when not in use. Laundry baskets, crates that flatten, folding or stacking chairs, and small folding step stools.
7. **Not Just for Magazines** - Magazine holders to house items other items such as bills, mail, label maker, staple gun and staples. All the same color can make a space visually calming.
8. **What's Behind Door #1?** - Utilize behind the doors, there are products that use the hinges to create a hidden cabinet for a pantry, medicine closet or jewelry cabinet.
9. **Cord Clutter** - Using Velcro zip ties and 3M cord hooks will manage and hide cords from creating visual clutter along walls and under desks when bound to a desk leg another way is to Velcro a surge protector strip to the desk so only one cord is going into the outlet. Also, makes for easier vacuuming :)
10. **Go VERTICAL** - Use the space up high with shelving storing lesser used items, and if able, install garage racks that hang from the ceiling in a garage for seasonal decor
11. **Raise the Bed** – Bed risers or bed hydraulic frames gives added under bed containers or drawers of storage space for extra bedding, out of season clothes, or even gift wrap.
12. **3M is Your Friend** – hooks for keys, badges, purses, and 3M Velcro for pictures.
13. **Accessory Wall** – Hang everyday hats decoratively or find an attractive functional step ladder and hang it as a piece of art.
14. **Transforming Tables** - Coffee table that converts to a dining table height, a dining room table that has fold down leaves or leaves that store within the table or a side tables that nest within each other.
15. **Sized Right** - Be conscientious about the size of furniture you are buying – an overstuffed, oversized sofa may be really comfy, but the smaller tailored one may be just as comfy and not take up as large footprint of space.