

# Lori Harvey

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## Lori's Tips for Happy Organizing

Focus your attention—Work to minimize distractions

- Visualize the end result—Organization can be a time of reflection, and even meditation; it can be uplifting and freeing, but it is work
- Decide where to start—small is ok, success early on is reinforcing
- Gather the necessary tools before you start—make it easy for yourself
- Accept that you will create more mess while you are organizing
- Remember that the kids generally won't want your "treasures" and consignment stores might not either
- Giving away, and/or throwing away stuff can be cathartic!
- Can't quite part with something?
  - Then start using/enjoying it again now!
  - Photograph the items and make a list of who should get what after you are gone, give to your executor or lawyer
- Once you've made progress, create your own organizing principles for the future—e.g., no new item of clothing in the closet unless something old is removed/given away
- Set up a process to facilitate carrying out those principles—e.g. a paper bag in the closet where you put the clothes you will give away OR be diligent about cleaning out closet at least 2 season per year
- Kitchen and Medicine Cabinet ~ Check all expiration dates
- Keep at it—but be kind to yourself, take a break if you need to

Have fun all!

With Love & Gratitude,

*Lori*