

Trade Secrets: Expert Tips to Use in Your Home

Whatever the job — packing lunch or cleaning up — do it better with these tried-and-true tricks the experts use in their own homes

By Joanna Pachner

Organizing the kitchen junk drawer

Expert: Heather Knittel, partner in Good Riddance Professional Organizing Solutions, an organizing service

Every home has one: a drawer — or, sometimes, cabinet or box — that's a dumping ground for household odds and ends. The key to keeping chaos at bay, Knittel finds, is assigning a home to as many items as possible, and that includes figuring out what items belong in that drawer. Knittel's junk drawer is small — limiting the temptation to overstuff it — and contains, among other things, a small hammer/screwdriver, some nails, tape, string, scissors and a few rarely used kitchen implements.

“These are things you need sometimes and it's a hassle to have to retrieve them from somewhere else,” she says. Located by the sink near her kitchen work centre, the drawer is divided into three compartments, one large and two small, and she uses little baskets bought at dollar stores or recycles plastic candy boxes as containers.



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