

Organizing Mistakes

& How to Fix Them!

Mistake: Copying someone else's systems

✔ Fix: Design storage for how you actually live. Skip lids if you never use them, use clear or open bins, and keep everyday items within reach.

Mistake: No drop zones

✔ Fix: Create simple landing spots near entrances for keys, shoes, bags, and mail using trays, hooks, or baskets.

Mistake: Not using all available space

✔ Fix: Use under-bed storage, armoires, added closet shelves, or rolling bins—especially in small homes.

Mistake: Ignoring vertical space

✔ Fix: Extend storage upward with tall shelves, cabinets to the ceiling, or wall-mounted storage.

Mistake: Too much open shelving

✔ Fix: Use open shelves only for decor. Store practical items behind closed doors.

Mistake: No storage budget

✔ Fix: Plan and budget for storage furniture first before decorative pieces.

Mistake: Not planning the whole house

✔ Fix: Think big picture. Prioritize storage furniture and avoid oversized pieces.

Mistake: Systems that aren't realistic

✔ Fix: Store items by frequency of use—from daily access to rarely used, hard-to-reach zones.

Mistake: Making organizing too hard

✔ Fix: Lower the friction: hooks, benches, trays, and easy drop-and-go solutions.

Mistake: Skipping labels

✔ Fix: Label or use clear bins so you can instantly see what's inside.

Mistake: Letting small items take over

✔ Fix: Use zip bags, drawer dividers, or small trays to keep tiny items contained.

Mistake: Organizing clutter

✔ Fix: Declutter first. Don't organize items you don't actually need or use.

Mistake: One system for everyone

✔ Fix: Customize systems based on each person's habits and behavior.

Mistake: Not measuring first

✔ Fix: Measure the space and bring measurements with you before buying storage.

Mistake: Getting overwhelmed and not starting

✔ Fix: Start small. Map problem areas, declutter first, test a few bins, then build slowly.