



Clutter in Your Home: 10 Tips to Avoid it

If you're wondering where all the clutter comes from that ends up in your home, it's through the front door! Here's 10 tips on how to avoid bringing it in.

1. Mail—The biggest culprit of clutter

- Try to make decisions about your mail once.
- Throw out all junk mail and rip up all credit card offers.
- Put bills in the place where you pay them.
- Place papers to be kept or filed (no envelopes) in one place and file once a month.
- Throw out old catalogs when new ones come, keep in one place alphabetically
- Keep invitations, things to take care of, and calls to be made, etc. in one place.

2. Errands—Need to be taken out often, just like dogs

- Dry cleaning, items to return to stores or people, banking, mail, repairs, etc.
- Place things in a basket by the door you exit to take out to the car.

3. Free or Cheap or Bargain!

- Just because it's free, cheap, or a bargain doesn't mean you want it or need it.
- Learn to resist this huge cause of clutter. Yard sale buyers beware!

4. Gift-giving

- Make memories instead of buying or getting stuff.
- Suggest dinner, a movie, a museum, or a Broadway show.
- Regifting is great, once it's yours, you may do with it what you wish.

5. Donation Box

- Keep a permanent donation bag/box handy to put unwanted items into.
- Take it to the nearest charity when it's full and get a receipt for a tax deduction.

6. New in/Old out

- When you buy anything new, throw out or donate the old model/item.
- Do not put it in the attic, garage, basement or extra room.

7. Clothing

- Take out of your closet whatever doesn't make you feel good or doesn't fit.
- When you buy new, get rid of something you'll no longer choose and don't buy any new hangers.

8. Keep Lists

- Lists save money and time.
- Take a list for all shopping including clothing, household items, food, etc. with details of the item (sizes, dimensions, etc.).

9. HSN, QVC and catalogs

- Beware of these "home invaders". They want to sell you something you don't need, don't have money for, or don't have the room for.

10. Maintenance!

- Make sure there's a "home" for everything. Without it, things just lay around.
- Do a little each day in order to keep it that way. Taking a few moments now will save hours later. Have respect for yourself, your time and your home!

2/10