

Never Spend Money on These 9 Products, Say Professional Organizers

By: Gabrielle Savoie



We all have the best intentions when organizing our homes—especially after we've vowed to get our clutter under control on January 1. Despite all the Marie Kondo books, the trips to Goodwill, and the cute woven baskets with customized tags, however, it seems our stuff is still all over the place. Why do our clothes pile up on the chair next to our bed? Why is our pantry still overflowing with expired items? And why is our letter tray filled with unfiled paperwork? Well, it turns out we've been doing it wrong.

We know that an organized home doesn't start with a trip to The Container Store, no matter how tempting it is to splurge on pretty boxes and bins instead of actually getting the work done. But once we've cut down clutter and are ready to start implementing organizational systems, how do we know which items will be helpful in keeping us organized? We tapped a professional organizer and a home stager to give us their insights. After organizing countless homes, these pros have it down to a science. **Are you guilty of holding on to products that are keeping you from being truly organized? Count your belongings and find out.**

Lined Cloth Hampers

"Some hampers have built-in liners that can't be removed and are impossible to clean," says NY-based professional stager and organizer **Tori Toth**. "I learned the hard way that you can't place wet towels in this type of hamper without creating mold at the bottom of the liner. Do yourself a favor and look for a liner you can remove and wash with your dirty laundry."



Drop-Front Boxes

"Drop-front boxes are another pretty item, but they're not practical, especially in small closets," says Toth. "You're spending more money for fabric boxes that use a magnetic closer with a clear front to store shoes, shirts, sweaters, and handbags. You'll need a ton of boxes to avoid overstuffing them. Using generic brands is an underused way to save money across a range of products. Usually, their purpose is identical; you're just not spending money on big brand names."



Clear Canister Sets

As much as a pantry filled with coordinated canisters is pleasing to the eye, Toth suggests that it doesn't actually help keeping your home organized. "Adding products like these in a closed pantry is just for show," she says. "Yes, it's pretty, but you have to remove the item from its original packing and clean the canisters frequently—two added steps I refuse to do for a place most people won't see." Instead, she recommends containing similar items in a bin together to easily access them.

