

Home Organization Checklist:

LIVING ROOM

- ❑ Declutter by removing everything from the floor, surfaces, cabinets, drawers, shelves, and other areas. Get rid of anything you don't want or need.
- ❑ Put away anything that doesn't belong in the living room.
- ❑ Consider what kinds of items are going to live in the living room (books, knick-knacks, electronics, remotes, board games, toys, etc.) and what storage solutions will work best for them. You may want shelving, a bookcase, storage boxes and bins, decorative baskets, hidden storage furniture, something else, or all of the above. You can even use different types of shelves and living room furniture to DIY living room storage that looks like built-ins.
- ❑ Put away everything you want to keep in the living room.
- ❑ Organize electronics by putting like items together. For example, if you have any gaming consoles, keep those, their cords, their games, and any accessories in one area together. As you're organizing electronics, organize cords too by tying them up with zip ties or velcro straps. Cable management sleeves or hooks might also be solutions that work for your electronics setup.
- ❑ Decide early on what will live on flat surfaces (shelves, side tables, end tables, console tables, the TV stand, etc.), and then adopt a policy of not allowing clutter to pile up in those areas. It can help to keep decorative objects there, like framed photos, flower vases, or magazines. Then, there's no room for extra items and they stay clutter-free.
- ❑ Use lidded boxes, folders, magazine racks, or file drawers to organize and store paper clutter.
- ❑ Need storage ideas for small items, like remote controls? Use a decorative basket, or a box with a lid if you want them out of sight.
- ❑ Keep toys organized in one area. If you have kids, it probably isn't possible to have a toy-free living room, especially if you don't have a dedicated playroom. So instead, designate one area (say, a bookshelf) for toys. Invest in lots of different size boxes, baskets, or bins that look nice and will keep toys organized and out of sight. Encourage kids to keep their toys in the area with a colorful rug just for playing on, or a divider separating their play area from the rest of the family room.

LIVING ROOM (continued)

- Decide on a trash system. Living rooms will accumulate trash, so it's a good organization tip to have a decorative trash can in the room. If you're going to use it for food waste, make sure it has a secure lid that can block odors.

- Look for storage in areas that are under-utilized. For example, put a table or shelves in the space behind the couch, or use shelves or boxes under your coffee table to add more storage to the room, if needed.

- Storage doesn't have to take up floor space or living space, especially if your living room is a small space. Attach storage baskets or storage bins to walls. Create an entertainment center out of floating shelves. Build extra storage with shelving up high near the ceiling.

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