

# Or-ga-ni-za-tion: Five syllables that makes you cringe or smile!



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Some people get very excited when they hear the word, “organization”. I happen to be one of them — yes, I get excited about orderliness and good-looking storage solutions—nerd alert!

But what organization means to people can differ drastically. For some, it means multiple clear bins where you can see everything in its place, while others prefer hiding everything behind closed doors.

Then there are those who are just grateful their teenager left a tiny piece of floor

exposed under a massive pile of clothes and “stuff”.

You can see how organization (or lack of it) is perceived the minute you walk in the door regardless of the door used.

Especially for us Canadians, we have the great fortune of requiring multiple outdoor wardrobes depending on the season, so we need solutions to store it all.

If you’re walking in to boots scatter around a floor mat, dripping, staining your floor, or coats piled up three deep

on one hook — and you’re ok with it, stop reading now. For those who are still with me, there are alternative options.

Coming up with creative storage solutions is one of my favourite design activities. It’s a bit like a puzzle when you start, but by the end, you have a balanced, satisfying concept for keeping “stuff” contained.

When it’s also the first thing you see when you walk in a home, it can be a thing of beauty. Really! The cabinetry can be as fancy or as understated as you need it to be and it can really set the tone of your whole home.

No one knows your family’s habits better than you so why not sit down with pencil and paper and think about what would work best for you.

Start with the place you take off your coats. You might add tall open cabinets with hooks for easy access to coats and jackets. A bench makes

it easy to sit and put on boots and shoes and don’t waste the space underneath, that will work for hats, gloves and small sports gear.

Take advantage of floor heating and cooling registers — don’t block them — that heat source can help dry off wet footwear. If you don’t have room for the depth or width of a bench, don’t worry.

It’s not about creating a bulky space that takes up more valuable room, it’s about being organized and tidy, do what works best for you and your space.

I recommend you think about purchasing the best quality cabinetry you can because storage has to be hard-working and hard-wearing. A lot of storage bins are advertised as permanent solutions but remember, you get what you pay for.

I prefer a mix of closed and open storage, after all we are



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human and outerwear is a reality for most of us. Choose great looking hardware, too. It’s the jewelry that finishes the “outfit” and if you can, complete any custom storage with trim and crown molding up to the ceiling, so it appears as a finished built-in.

When it comes to the cost of creating storage solutions, try not to think of it as an expense, for most of us it’s a necessity.

It can save you time (trying to find your coat, that other mitten or shoe) and money

(replacing worn out bins and over-worked coat racks) not to mention your walls and floors.

So no matter how you interpret “organization”, if you need solutions, there are many options to keep everyone happy.

— Award-winning designer and TV personality Jane Lockhart is one of Canada’s leading experts in the world of design. For more information, visit [www.janelockhart.com](http://www.janelockhart.com).

# A few must-haves that would help any home



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I’m always looking out for the best new products and deals for around the house.

Whether it is in the kitchen, for the bedroom, to help with cleaning or get things organized there are always new must-haves. Here are a few of my favourites.

With the cold dry winter I noticed the dry air in my house, I started getting a dry cough and my skin was not looking its best. I needed to bring some moisture back into the air.

I decided to shop around for a humidifier. Humidifiers come in a few different genres; hot steam systems, evaporators, cool-mist and ultrasonic. An ultrasonic system

is more energy efficient than the others, especially the ones that create steam. Cold mist models tend to be nosy as well as put more bacteria into the air.

Bacteria can be a problem with ultrasonic humidifiers but I found one that eliminates that — the Dyson Humidifier AM10. A special UV light built into the system eliminates 99.9% of bacteria.

This is paired with Dyson’s bladeless fan using Air Multiplier technology that allows for a silent energy efficient flow of air. That’s right you also get a bladeless fan when you get the Dyson Humidifier two appliances in one — a humidifier and a fan.

My parents decided to redo

their laundry room, which meant an upgrade in a washer and dryer. They wanted something energy efficient that could still tackle laundry for a house full of people.

That’s when they found the Samsung FlexWash and FlexDry laundry system. This grand front load washer and dryer both have mini-me’s incorporated as top loaders. Basically you are getting two washers and two dryers.

Imagine one of your big laundry days — you can throw your bulky regular wash load into the front loader and your more delicate items in the top loader — two loads done at once. You can do the same with the FlexDryer.

There is even an added bonus. No time to get to the dry cleaner? The main dryer has MultiSteam technology to steam clean, reduce odours and wrinkles. To top it all off you can control and monitor this system from your smartphone.

Cooking is one of my passions. I especially love to make soups, stews, roasts and other comfort foods in win-



The Samsung FlexWash and FlexDry laundry system lets you wash two loads at a time — bulky regular wash down below and more delicate items up top.

ter. Like most people I am well versed in the ways of the slow cooker.

I’m a big fan of how slow cooking enhances flavours and creates succulent meat

dishes as well as flavourful stews and soup so it’s always a must have in my kitchen.

If you watch any of the food shows on TV you would have seen the chefs using Sous Vide cooking. Sous Vide is vacuum-sealed style of cooking that Chefs love because it is a no-fail cooking method.

Exceptional for cooking meats and fish, the sous vide is also great for eggs, fruits, vegetables, and even desserts. It may sound super fancy and perhaps something only chefs can do but no longer.

Hamilton Beach has come out with a Sous Vide and 6qt. Slow Cooker in one! Now you can create comforting home cooking or gourmet meals like a true French Chef.

If you come across a great product for the home I would love to hear about it — reach out to me at [nataliedeane.com](http://nataliedeane.com).

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.