

Organizing Your Crafts

Purging:

Ask yourself the hard question, "*Am I going to use this?*" Designate a bag or box for items that are leaving your house to be donated and put it aside. If you are unsure if you want to donate an item, create a temporary holding area for it. Give yourself a date to get rid of the items in temporary hold and if you don't use them before that date, donate or discard them.

Sorting:

Categories! Create 3- 5 categories that **work for you**. Sort your crafting items into these categories. You may decide to create subcategories if you find one is particularly large, but start with the main ones. Remember, like with like.

Storage:

Determine where you are going to store your items. When you know how much you need to store (by purging and sorting), you can decide which tools (bins, shelves, cabinets, etc) will work for your items. Give yourself room to grow. Create zones for each category.

Maintenance:

Labels are a great way to remind yourself what goes where. Everything should have a home. Use your creativity to label your storage. Puffy paint pens, embroidered fabric, stickers and even pictures of the items are great ways to label. Determine a good purging schedule. You should plan to purge no less than once a year. We suggest every quarter or every six months. Use a significant date, like your birthday, to help you remember. Put the date on your calendar as soon as you choose it!

Resources – Websites with neat craft organizers

<http://www.organizedatoz.com/Craft-Organization-s/79.htm>

<http://www.allcraftsupplies.com/c-4420/craft-organizers.html>

http://www.hancockfabrics.com/Organizers_stcVcatId540037Vviewcat.htm