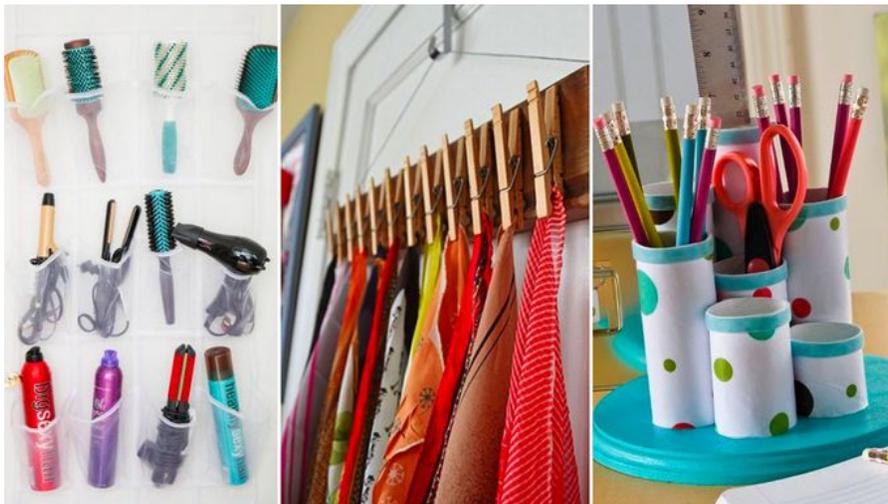




8 Brilliant Home-Organizing Hacks Using Stuff You Already Own

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Chances are good that one of your resolutions this year (along with "dry January" and nudging down that pesky body mass index) is to organize your home. Because which of us doesn't constantly feel as if we're drowning in clutter?

But first, you need a place to *put* it all. Before you run out to the store to stock up on specialized bins and storage racks, take heed: It doesn't have to cost a small fortune to store your stuff in style. Instead, you can grab everyday household items that you need to purge anyway and instead use them to keep your things in order.

So without further ado, we present to you eight DIY storage solutions that cost pennies on the dollar.

1. Plastic shoe holders



Tuck curling irons and hair spray into these perfectly sized pockets.

Offers.com

Banish the mess under your bathroom sink by hanging a plain ol' plastic shoe holder over the back of your door. Once you've sorted out the products and devices you use most often, store them one per pocket.

"These holders start at \$5 at Walmart and can easily hold gardening tools and cleaning supplies, too," points out **Carson Yarbrough**, savings expert at Offers.com.

Another pro tip? Use a shoe holder inside your coat closet for corralling hats, mittens, gloves, and the dog's leash. They look fine and work well: What's not to love?

2. Empty candleholders and baby food jars



Store cotton swabs and tweezers in empty votive candle holders.

HeartWorkOrganizing

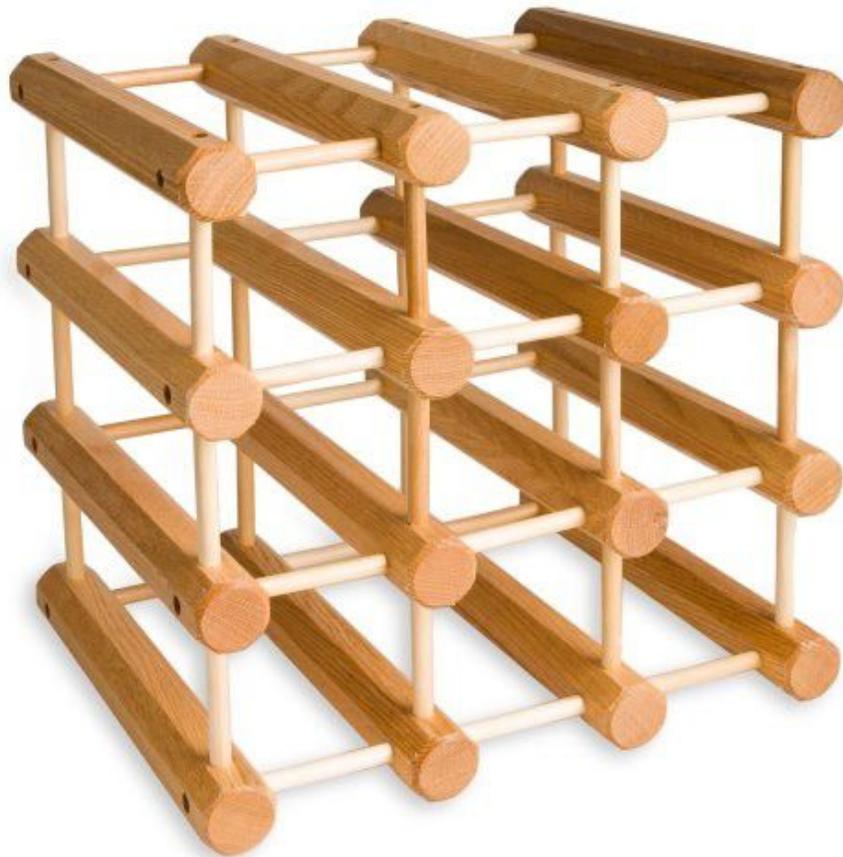
This sweet idea takes advantage of all those little votive candle holders and tiny baby food jars rolling around in the bottom kitchen drawer.

Darla DeMorrow, the home organizing pro behind HeartWork Organizing, put these pretty filigree cut metal cups in her medicine cabinet to hold makeup brushes, bandages, and cotton swabs.

Move on to the garage or your kids' room to organize tiny items in baby food jars, says **Marty Basher**, an organizing expert at Modular Closets.

"Store screws, nails, buttons, stickers, and all of those google eyeballs the kids use in craft projects," she suggests.

3. Wine racks



This kitchen extra is ideal in your closet.

Amazon.com

So you've upgraded from a wine rack to a wine fridge? Use your old rack to tuck away small purses and clutches, suggests **Julie Coraccio**, the organizing guru at Reawaken Your Brilliance.

Don't stop there, though. You can use wine racks for stylish storage in nearly every part of your home: In the bathroom, store rolled-up towels in a wine rack for a beautiful display. In the kitchen, use a wine rack to store all those water bottles and thermoses piled in your cupboards. And in the bedroom, you can even use a large wine rack for shoe storage. (Extra credit: Organize and preserve high boots by cutting up old polyethylene foam pool noodles to insert into the boots; it'll help them stay upright and keep their shape.)

4. Empty marinara sauce and peanut butter jars



[Photo by Samantha Schoech](#)

There's no need to spring for a specialized set of glass jars for your beans and pasta. Instead, hit your recycling bin for marinara sauce and peanut butter jars, and set up your pantry for greatness.

"Wide-mouth jars can also hold spoons, spatulas, zesters, tongs, and whisks very neatly on your counters," reports **Cynthia O'Hara**, aka The Harried Housewife.

5. Castoff wooden plank and clothespins



Clip it—and forget it.

Offers.com

An overly elaborate scarf organizer from the store? Nah. You can nail a small plank to the back of your closet door and glue clothespins on it instead, Yarbrough says.

"And if you have any spray paint hanging around, you can customize the color of the pins," she notes.

O'Hara makes her own version with a sturdy plastic hanger, duct tape, and shower rings. "Cover the hanger with tape, attach the rings with the tape, and then hang your scarves," she explains.

6. Custom-cut cardboard boxes



Simple cardboard from your recycling pile will transform your drawers.

Offers.com

Cardboard boxes can be quickly cut to size to create a grid for your socks, hose, bras, and underwear, Yarbrough says. Measure carefully and cut slats or small notches to make the shapes.

7. Toilet paper rolls



Grab paper towel rolls for home-office organization.

Offers.com

These simple rolls from your paper towels and toilet tissue can be decorated and glued to an old tray or painted round of wood for a smart desk organizer.

"Stash scissors, pens, and pencils in these DIY cups, for an upright and organized look," Yarbrough says.

Or repurpose a soda or beer six-pack carrier, says O'Hara. "Cover it with decorative duct tape and fill it with office supplies."

8. Wine boxes



[Photo by Tobi Fairley Interior Design](#)

Drink wine, get organized! Yup, a wine box is ideal for storing holiday ornaments. If it can keep glass bottles from breaking, it'll keep your fragile decorations safe, Coraccio points out.

"And many times, you can request the color of the wine box, so ask for a red one, and you can color-code your Christmas items," she suggests.

Finally, don't throw away egg cartons, Basher says. "They might not look like much, but Styrofoam ones are perfect for storing and protecting tiny ornaments."

Yeah, we know ornaments are probably the last thing you want to hear about this time of year, but it's good to know.

