

## **Organize Vertically**

by Vicki S. Norris

Are you running out of space in your home? Can't find a place to put things?

First, declutter as much as possible - if you don't love it or haven't used it in the last year, get rid of it.

After decluttering, look up and down in your home and concentrate on the wasted space in those locations.

Look up - look all the way to the top of your walls. Is there a place where you can put shelves? How about over a window? Or in a window? Install a shelf over the top of your window but make it go all the way around the room if possible. Use decorative boxes and/or baskets to hold the items you want to store on your shelf. Do this in as many rooms as possible or as needed.

Look down - look all the way to the floor. Is there empty space under your bed, your sofa, a chair? How about under a table with a floor-length tablecloth? Use whatever containers will fit in the space you need to use as storage and will enable you to utilize that space.

Look at your living spaces with new eyes and or even ask a friend to help you find those unused spaces. Instead of putting bookcases with their backs against the wall, put two bookcases back to back with the end against the wall. In a child's room, try a loft bed and put a chest of drawers, a desk and/or a play area underneath.

Be creative and find those new storage spaces!

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