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PROBLEM? RELAX. YOU'VE GOT THIS!

A tongue-in-cheek guide series ;)

My Home Is a Warehouse for “Someday”

How to Let Go of Excess Stuff, Make Decisions,
and Reclaim Your Space Without Purging Your Life
in One Weekend



We've got a problem. But relax.
It can be solved - and we'll even have something to laugh about.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRO	1
Chapter 1 - Find Out Where Your Home Ends and the Storage Unit Begins	8
Chapter 2 - Why It Is So Hard to Let Go of Things You Do Not Use	16
Chapter 3 - Make a Decision Instead of Moving the Object Again.....	26
Chapter 4 - Small Decluttering Sessions That Actually End.....	31
Chapter 5 - Keepsakes and Gifts Without a Lifetime Storage Contract.....	36
Chapter 6 - Sell It, Give It Away, and Actually Get It Out of the House	41
Chapter 7 - Shared Home, Different Definitions of "Necessary"	45
Chapter 8 - Shopping Without Restocking "Someday"	49
Chapter 9 - When Clutter Comes Back, Do Not Start Over ..	54
Chapter 10 - A Home That Does Not Need Constant Management.....	58
Chapter 11 - Cables, Boxes, and Other Objects With Convincing Alibis	62
Chapter 12 - The Basement and the Attic Are Still Part of Your Home.....	67
Chapter 13 - A Wardrobe for the Person You Are Now.....	71
Chapter 14 - The Paper Mountain That Was Supposed to Be One Small Pile.....	75

Chapter 15 - A Kitchen for Cooking, Not Storing Possibilities	79
Chapter 16 - A Bathroom That Does Not Pretend to Be a Drugstore.....	84
Chapter 17 - A Child's Room Without Stepping on a Brick..	88
Chapter 18 - A Hobby Without Opening a Private Warehouse	93
Chapter 19 - A System That Still Works When You Do Not.	98
Chapter 20 - From a Warehouse for "Someday" to a Home for Now.....	103

INTRO

You are trying to put the vacuum cleaner back in the storage closet. To do that, you first remove a bread maker, an empty printer box, and a bag containing other bags that appear to have started a family. Behind them are plant pots for the day you become a plant person and sports equipment for the day you become a sports person. The vacuum stays in the hallway. The "someday" items go back inside. In your home, the future clearly has better housing conditions than the present.

Your place does not have to look chaotic for this to be a problem. You can have neatly labeled boxes, clothes folded by color, and storage containers that match the room. Excess can be extremely tidy. The problem begins when getting one useful item means moving three useless ones, the dining table becomes a permanent holding area, and an empty shelf looks like an error that urgently needs correcting. The home may appear organized, while becoming increasingly difficult to use.

Every one of those things has a persuasive story. That one was expensive. This one is almost new. You cannot get rid of that because it was a gift. This could be useful for a project. That will be perfect in the larger home you do not own yet but have already furnished in your imagination. Considered one by one, these arguments can sound perfectly reasonable. Collected under one roof, they can leave you eating dinner beside a machine designed to make a completely different kind of dinner that you have never actually made.

This book will not try to convince you that a good life requires three shirts, one bowl, and a decorative stone symbolizing your freedom from consumerism. You do not

have to love empty interiors. You may adore books, collect models, keep special holiday dishes, and own a sweater because it reminds you of a good part of your life. The point is that these things should have space because you choose them, not because you still have not decided what to do with them.

There are two jobs that are often confused. Tidying asks where something belongs and how to keep it clean. Reducing excess asks an earlier question: should this object still be part of your home at all? You can spend an entire Saturday moving things around and finish the day with exactly the same amount of usable space. Everything has changed address, but nothing has stopped taking up room. Buying another organizer can then become a very elegant way to postpone the decision.

The hardest part is often not the object itself but the story attached to it. An unused sewing machine may represent the person you planned to become. Clothes may be waiting for a different body. Kitchen equipment may be waiting for calmer evenings. Renovation supplies may be waiting for energy. Letting them go can feel like admitting that not every plan will happen. Yet you can stop storing the equipment for an old idea without giving up the right to have new ideas.

Money complicates things too. Suppose a device cost you four hundred dollars and has sat unused for years. Keeping it for another three years does not return that money. Selling it may recover some of the cost. Donating it may return usefulness to the object. Keeping it may still make sense if you genuinely plan to use it. What does not make sense is allowing the old receipt to decide forever. A receipt records a purchase from the past. It is not a lifetime tenancy agreement.

We are also not going to pretend that everyone can live by the rule "get rid of it, you can always buy another." A sensible backup can be valuable. So can tools used occasionally and seasonal items. Your winter coat does not become unnecessary because July is going well. We will distinguish between a real, specific use and an emergency scenario invented only when your hand reaches toward the donation box. "I use this to repair my bike" tells you something. "You never know" tells you almost nothing.

You do not need one heroic weekend in which you empty every closet onto the bed. That kind of beginning feels dramatic until it gets late, your energy disappears, and you discover that sleeping requires resolving the entire history of your wardrobe first. We will work in portions you can actually finish. One shelf. One drawer. A small group of similar objects. The scope should fit your actual capacity, not the ambition you briefly develop after watching someone else's transformation video.

Start with one everyday activity that excess makes harder. Maybe you want to put your keys down without searching through random objects, take out a frying pan without removing three others, or sit at your desk without moving boxes onto the chair. Write the result in a normal sentence: "I want enough clear space to make breakfast." That is far more useful than "I need to get my life together." It also gives you a way to recognize success without counting garbage bags.

Your first attempt can last ten minutes. Choose a small area and deal with objects one at a time instead of dumping everything out. Ask: do I use this, do I have a specific use for it, or do I consciously want to keep it for personal reasons? You do not need three yeses. A keepsake does not have to peel potatoes to deserve space. You need an honest answer,

not a defense speech delivered on behalf of a vegetable peeler.

Begin with things that are relatively easy to decide. Do not warm up by opening a box of letters from someone you lost or documents you do not understand. If even a small area feels difficult, reduce it to one object. You can also postpone one specific decision if you name the missing information: what does this fit, who owns it, can it be repaired? "I will check this on Saturday" gives the matter a chance to end. "I will think about it someday" is already familiar to every storage closet in the world.

We will also finish decisions. A bag labeled "donate" that has stood by the door for six months is still taking up space. An item listed for sale is not yet sold. A broken appliance is not repaired simply because it has been moved into the hallway. You need a next step: a recipient, a deadline, a repair quote, or a different decision. Not every object deserves a three-week search for the perfect new owner.

There is another simple boundary: work on your own things, and make joint decisions about shared things. Do not begin with your partner's collection just because its uselessness seems far more obvious to you than the uselessness of your spare accessories. Without consent, reclaiming space can quickly become reclaiming trust. This book is meant to help with decision-making, not provide legal representation for throwing away somebody else's past.

Along the way we will deal with guilt, bad purchases, gifts, sentimental items, and the promise that you will definitely sell everything eventually. We will also look at what comes into your home so that every newly cleared shelf does not immediately become real estate for the next bargain. You do not have to solve all of that before your first attempt. Today,

one small area and one completed decision are enough. The vacuum cleaner does not need a personality transformation from you. It just needs room in the closet.

Minimum version

Pick one object that is making one ordinary activity harder. Decide whether it stays, leaves, or needs one specific piece of information before you decide. Do not open another drawer. Do not start a bigger project. Finish that one thing.

Plan B

If even one decision feels like too much today, choose one item you already know belongs somewhere else and return it to its proper place. You are not failing the process. You are reducing friction so that the next decision is easier.

Chapter 1 - Find Out Where Your Home Ends and the Storage Unit Begins

Before you remove a single thing from a closet, answer one question: what do you want to be able to do in your home without moving other objects first? You are not deciding what to get rid of yet. Maybe you want to open your wardrobe fully, prepare food on the counter, or reach a towel without the involvement of two people and light construction equipment. Start with the activity that is being blocked. We will judge the objects later, once we know what the space is supposed to do.

That shift matters. If you begin with "what should I throw away?", every object immediately hires a lawyer. The sweater mentions the price. The vase brings up the person who gave it to you. The old monitor declares itself ready for emergency service in a situation nobody can clearly describe. But when you ask, "How do I want to use this space?", you have something more useful than a debate about each individual item. You have a purpose against which its presence can be measured.

There is no universal number of possessions beyond which a home officially becomes a warehouse. Two people can own the same number of books and have completely different problems. For one person, the books fit on a shelf, get read, and bring pleasure. For another, they cover the desk needed for work because the only bookcase is filled with old binders. The number alone tells you little. What matters is available space, how you use the objects, and what you have to give up because of them.

For this book, use a practical definition: excess begins where storing things regularly interferes with using your home in the way you need. This does not include laundry temporarily waiting to be folded or the kitchen after dinner. A lived-in home does not have to look ready for an interior magazine. Look for repeated obstacles that remain even after normal daily tasks are finished.

Notice the difference between something that has not been put away and something that has nowhere sensible to go. A jacket on a chair may simply need hanging up. But if the hooks are full of coats you never wear and the closet can no longer accept so much as a whisper, the problem is not only your habit of putting things away. "Put it back where it belongs" assumes there is somewhere functional to put it. Without that, the instruction is roughly equivalent to telling someone to park in a full parking lot with greater discipline.

Take a short walk through your home, but do not open every cupboard. You are not performing an inventory for a government inquiry into the disappearance of spare charging cables. Pick no more than three places that regularly slow you down. Maybe it is the cabinet by the front door, part of the kitchen, and the area around your bed. In each one, notice what you are trying to do, what exactly gets in the way, and what extra steps you have to take before the actual task can begin.

Write observations as ordinary sentences. "Before I cook, I move appliances from the counter to the table" is more useful than "the kitchen is a disaster." "I cannot put away the shoes I wear because the shelf is full of pairs I never use" gives you more information than "I have too much stuff." "To work at my desk, I have to move two boxes onto the chair" points to both the problem and the place to work on. The more

specific the sentence, the less likely you are to turn the solution into a general argument with yourself.

You can also count the preparation steps. How many unused things must you move before you can reach the one you need? How often do you place something in a temporary spot that becomes permanent after three days? There is no acceptable maximum number of movements. The point is to notice repeated effort. If you remove two boxes every time you want the mop, those boxes are participating in cleaning far more actively than their official function would suggest.

Judge your home based on an ordinary week, not an exceptional day. After moving, renovating, being ill, or returning from a trip, the space may be temporarily harder to use. You do not need to sentence your entire household based on one bad evening. At the same time, do not wait for perfect conditions before noticing a repeated problem. It is enough to identify an obstacle that keeps returning and is not explained by a temporary event.

For each problem, check three possible causes. Sometimes the object is useful but stored in the wrong place. Sometimes there are more items serving the same purpose than fit comfortably in the available space. Sometimes the area is occupied by things waiting for a decision, repair, pickup, or lifestyle change. These causes can overlap, but they require different responses. Moving the toaster closer to the outlet is a different job from deciding why you own three toasters when two of them are waiting for a better future.

Do not assume that the answer is immediately to get rid of everything in the area. Maybe the pans you use daily are stored behind dishes used twice a year and the layout simply needs reversing. Maybe a shelf is installed at an awkward height. Maybe, however, no arrangement can work because