

HOUSEWIFE LIN'S HOUSEHOLD CHORES: WORRY-FREE HOUSEKEEPING WITHOUT THE HASSLE

林姓主婦的家務事 3 通體舒 暢的順手感・家收納：打通 收納邏輯＋翻轉裝修觀念＋ 省力家事心法

Home storage isn't anywhere near as terrifying a job as it might seem; anyone who masters Housewife Lin's "ready-at-hand" principle can do it easily! This helpful handbook for household organization maximizes convenience and makes homemaking a snap.

Anyone who's ever had to keep a house clean knows how amazingly fast clutter and chaos reappear, and has wondered why; is it because we have too much stuff? Do household objects have a life of their own? How does the house I just cleaned get so messy so fast?

To this, Housewife Lin poses a question in response: When you're putting things away, are you putting them where you think they should go, or are you putting them where they are frequently used? Are you trying to keep things frequently used at the dining table inside kitchen drawers because that's "where they go", even though they inevitably end up in piles on the dining table eventually? Housewife Lin teaches us to recognize our patterns of use for household items and how to create storage spaces around those patterns. That way, the items you need in everyday life will always be at "home" exactly where you need them!



Category: Lifestyle

Publisher: Sun Color

Date: 1/2019

Rights contact:

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Pages: 192

Length: 45,000 characters
(approx. 30,000 words in English)

Material: Sample

Worry-Free Housekeeping Without the Hassle merges simple principles of home organization with craft-based solutions for storage. Entryways, living spaces, bathrooms, cupboards – not even the toughest space can stay chaotic with the Housewife Lin’s “ready-at-hand” method!

Housewife Lin 林姓主婦

Housewife Lin began her Facebook page, “Housewife Lin’s Household Chores” in 2015, and now has over one hundred thousand followers. When her family moved in 2018, she took it upon herself to make their new home a space best suited for everyone’s needs. The lessons she learned from that project inspired her to share her knowledge with as many people as possible.

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By Housewife Lin

Translated by Mary King Bradley

CONTENTS

Author's Preface Everything starts at home

Foreword Efficiency through laziness: Master hassle-free storage by being lazier!

Before you start, read Housewife Lin's top ten minimalist wake-up calls!

Chapter 1: Crack the storage puzzle to figure out where you're stuck

Top three storage considerations from seven weeks of hard thought

Part 1: Determine patterns of use and find convenience always at hand

Some extra advice: Improving entryway storage: Solve life's small hassles with the basics

Part 2: Determine frequency of use and make items easy to take out and put away

Some extra advice: How to create a hassle-free kitchen

Part 3: Everything together in its (properly sorted) place means items never go missing

Nine major storage trouble spots, with case files

Trouble spot 1: Refrigerator

Trouble spot 2: Dishes

Trouble spot 3: Food storage containers

Trouble spot 4: Pantry dry goods

Trouble spot 5: Food storage bags

Trouble spot 6: Stationery

Trouble spot 7: Socks and underwear

Trouble spot 8: T-shirts

Trouble spot 9: Receipts

Chapter 2: A storage room is better than three cabinets!

Exchanging cabinets for a storage room is thrifty and practical

Tips for fewer cabinets but no mess

Chapter 3: Simple design concepts for an inexpensive and useful room where you can air clothes and dress!

The organizational plan and formula that will revolutionize your cabinets – save money and create a multipurpose dressing area

Some extra advice: Storing and managing children's clothing

A rear balcony plan that will finally let you love washing and drying clothes

Some extra advice: Handy help for everyday housework

Chapter 4: A kid-friendly plan that keeps your house a home for kids and adults

Keys to living room, study, playroom, and children's bedroom design

Four major tips for keeping things clean with kids

Some extra advice: Be mindful of your kids' evolving needs when sorting and storing toys

Chapter 5: Using aesthetics to solve problems is good design!

Mindful design: Real-life examples of problem-solving design

Advice for logical and simple lighting configurations

Six habits to help you avoid being trapped by housework

Top ten things to ponder so your designer can better understand your needs

Some extra advice: Valuable antique wood furniture

Housewife Lin's heartfelt final words: Count your blessings when keeping house and consider the source of the mess

A word to my son

Appendix: Housewife's list of furniture and household product manufacturers

Part 1



Determine patterns of use and find convenience always at hand



In the past, I always followed the same logic when figuring out where to put something: kitchen items were stored in the kitchen; items my husband and I used went in the master bedroom. After my son was born, I followed the same pattern, putting his things in his room.

A slew of daily inconveniences finally made me realize this inflexible thinking didn't fit my circumstances. Putting an item away according to a category isn't enough. **Frequently used items should be grouped according to daily routines and specific uses, their location reconsidered based on where they are actually used** and then placed in that area so that they come easily to hand.

The Housewife's Real-Life Examples

01 Items used after a child's bath

In the past, I stored my son's things in his room. Before his bath, I had to go to his room to get what I needed and then carry everything to the master bathroom. Sometimes I had my son out of the tub and on our bed before discovering I had forgotten something. I had to wrap him in a towel while I ran to get it, worried the whole time that he would get cold and wet the bed.

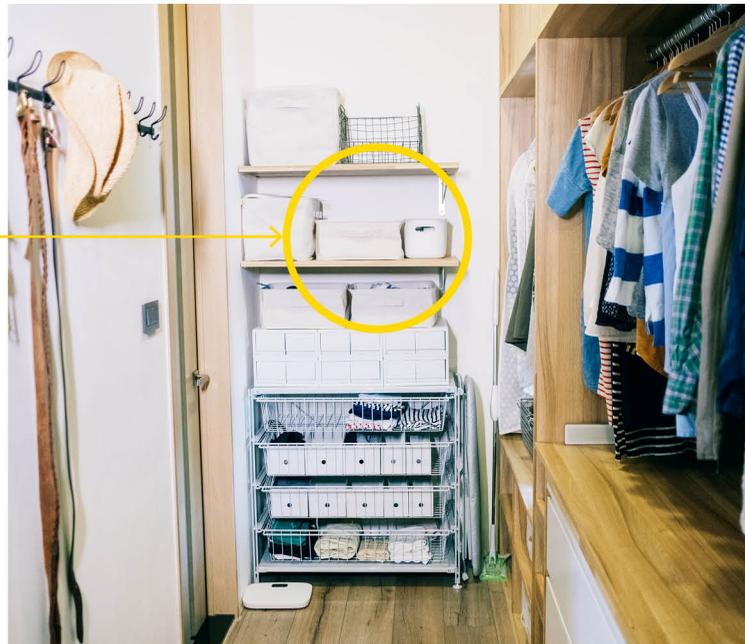
The Solution

After we moved into our new home, I put all the items he would need after his bath (pajamas, underwear, diapers, and lotion) in a decorative basket, which I set on a shelf outside the bathroom door. Now I can grab everything as I leave the bathroom – no need to make multiple trips to my son's room.



Before My son's things were kept in different places in his room. I had to run back and forth to get the things I forgot.

After All the items are stored in a small basket by the bathroom door. After my son's bath I can grab the basket with all the necessary items in it ready to go, and he won't get cold and wet my bed.



02 Frequently used mealtime items

Items used at meals (utensils, cloth napkins, frequently used condiments, my child's favorite laver and rice seasoning, breakfast jams) were previously stored in various kitchen drawers. When we wanted something, we had to run back and forth.

The Solution

After we moved to our new home, I put everything together in a cabinet next to the dining table.



Before We had to run back and forth whenever we wanted items stored in kitchen drawers.

After Items are placed together near the dining table, within easy reach.



03 Child's schoolbag and lunch tote

My son started school this summer. Initially, his schoolbag and lunch tote were hung on a hook in the entryway when he got home. Later I realized this wasn't convenient because I needed to go get his dirty clothes and lunch box in the evening to wash them. Then I would pack clean items for him to take to school the next day. Putting his bag in the entryway meant making two additional trips, a waste of time for a lazy housewife!

The Solution

I moved the hook for his schoolbag to the side of the kitchen's center island. The kitchen counter is much closer to my son's room, which means I can deal with the items in his schoolbag more quickly and efficiently.



Before When my son's schoolbag was stored in the entryway, going to get it in the evening and putting it back in the morning required two extra trips.

After Storing the bag on the side of the kitchen island makes it far more convenient.



04 Husband's shoe brush

After I bought my husband a shoe brush, his natural reaction was to store it in the shoe cabinet. But cleaning dirty shoes inside isn't practical, so we carry them to the work counter on the rear balcony, where the brushed off mud can be immediately washed away.

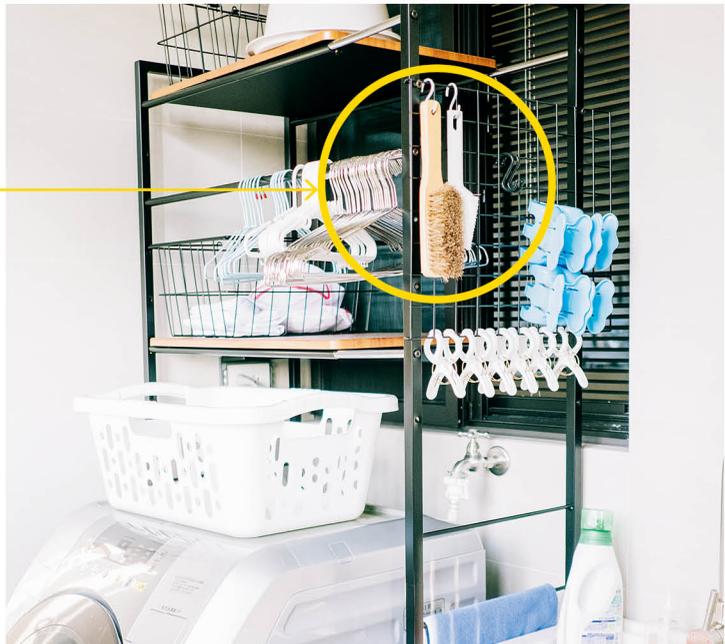
The Solution

I hung the shoe brush on the rear balcony, making the whole process of brushing shoes more straightforward.



Before We reflexively put the shoe brush in the shoe cabinet, although we never used it there.

After The shoe brush is stored on the rear balcony, where we brush shoes.



05 Frequently used medicines

After my son started kindergarten, he got the sniffles more often. I also began taking traditional Chinese medicine for headaches. (How's that for oversharing?) It wasn't long before we noticed that my medicine packets and my son's cold syrup started showing up in different places – the dining room table, the kitchen counter, etc. Not only did this create clutter, we had to go looking for the medicine before we could take it.

The Solution

After realizing the cause of the mess, I collected the entire family's current medicines in a woven bamboo basket, then put the basket near the water glasses. Since water is required to take the medicine, this arrangement makes perfect sense. Now the medicine is easy to put back afterward and isn't scattered all over the place.



Before My son's and my medicines were left out on the dining table, the kitchen counter, and various other places. It created clutter and was difficult to find.

After Current medicines for the whole family are placed together in a basket near the water glasses.

