



Practically Posh

*The Smart Girls' Guide
to a Glam Life*

by

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The Golden Rules of Organizing

You don't have to have OCD to keep your place neat, just use a little strategy. To help simplify my space, I employed the "Truth, Love, Meaning, Purpose" method from organizing expert June Saruwatari. The basic principles are:

TRUTH: Be honest with yourself about the space you're living in. For instance, if you have a tiny apartment, is it really practical to own a monster sleigh bed? You may like the *idea* of an antique birdcage or a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf, but if you don't have a huge space your place may end up looking like a storage unit instead of a chic pad.

LOVE: Do you truly love the item? With limited space, a simple crush won't do. Not only is this a good way to help filter out unnecessary items, but it will also hopefully prevent you from acquiring more of those "seemed like a good idea at the time" pieces. Adopt a recycling rule: For everything you buy and bring into your house, you'll have to toss something to make space. I guarantee this will make you think twice about that "fixable" on-sale item at Crate & Barrel.

MEANING: Does this awful space-stealing eyesore at least have some sentimental value to you? It can be hard to separate the rubbish from, well, *meaningful* rubbish, like the scary-as-hell mask Mom brought you back from her trip to Peru. The thing to remember here is that the item should have meaning for *you*, and not other people.

PURPOSE: Does the item serve a purpose? Look around your room right now. I bet there are five things that are totally useless (besides your fat cat) hanging out in plain sight. The magazine rack that holds everything but magazines? Chuck it! Shadeless lamp you were going to brilliantly redesign? Toss it! Torn menus from the diners you ate at on your cross-country trip wallpapering the kitchen? Get rid of 'em! It might be hard, because these are pieces of your life, but it's best to save the memories and lose the miscellany. Take a picture or write about it in a journal. Commit it to memory, and then say *adiós*.

Robyn's Tip

Start small. Often the very idea of cleaning or organizing is so overwhelming, we either do nothing or do everything all at once, only to find ourselves wading through piles of mess an hour before we're supposed to be somewhere on a Saturday night. Instead, pick a room or an area to clean, like under your sink, and set a time limit so you don't get carried away.