

Refresh Your Home

The new year calls for some quick-and-easy updates to your abode that can make you feel renewed and relaxed. Take a cue from our expert and stylist team—brighten up and organize.

PHOTO STYLING BY SIDNEY BRAGIEL



1. Make the most of your stuff
2. Keep it fresh
3. Tuesday night = China night
4. Get a good view
5. Don't forget ambiance
6. Repurpose
7. Visual clutter creates mental clutter
8. Think about the little things
9. Accessorize
10. Use it or lose it



10 Steps to Refresh Your Home in 2015



{1} Make the most of your stuff.
Large bowls and cake stands, for example, can be difficult to store. Embrace their visual and functional possibilities by displaying them, as well as using them to store small items like fresh citrus, for a bold pop of color. Efficiency at its finest!

{2}

Keep it fresh.

Food, spices, makeup, and other perishable items have limited shelf lives. Stay on top of expiration dates by being aware of what you have, storing items appropriately (e.g., flour should be kept in an airtight container), and then actually using them. Organize your spices alphabetically to help you find what you need quickly. Prepare meals that call for ingredients that will spoil soon.



{3}

'Tuesday night = china night.

Holidays aren't the only times your fine china can be used or displayed. Whether it's hot dogs or a filet mignon on the menu, make an effort to use the "good stuff" once a week. We promise those hot dogs will taste better!





{4}

Get a good view.

Move artwork around, change out frames, replace older photographs with newer ones, or create a gallery wall with your favorite framed pieces. There is no right or wrong way to arrange your wall, so get creative.

{5}

Don't forget about ambiance.

Lighting a candle or buying some low-maintenance houseplants can easily freshen up the atmosphere of a space. These are quick, easy, and affordable ways to enjoy a fresh look.



{6}

Repurpose.

Is your entry table not so welcoming? Try switching it out with another piece in your home. A bar cart is a fantastic replacement—it has shelf space, charming appeal, and a size that isn't overwhelming.



{7}



Classic Cart

See how to create the perfect cocktail station at celebratemag.com.



Visual clutter creates mental clutter.

Flat surfaces, like floors or countertops, are breeding grounds for clutter. Maintain these areas by respecting their purpose. A floor is meant for walking on, not for storing clothes that should be hung up. A countertop is meant for meal preparation, not housing a week's worth of unopened mail. Clear space = clearer mind.



{8}

Think about the little things.

Make your home easy on the eyes by corralling your electrical wires, touching up scratch marks on your walls or furniture, and the like—those little inches will get you a mile. Take the necessary time to freshen up the space that refreshes you!

{10}

Use it or lose it.

Magazines are famous for being massively accumulated. Choose your favorites, and display neatly. After several months, find a better home for the unused ones by passing them along to a friend or nonprofit organization that would be interested in them, or recycle them (always remove personal information).



Tips provided by Birmingham, Alabama-based professional organizer Stacey McElrath, who helps clients throughout the Southeast clear clutter and establish customized systems to maintain order in their homes or offices. Visit www.SHMorganizing.com for more information.



{9}

Accessorize.

Take advantage of the abundance of inexpensive accessories in the market. New throw pillows wake up a tired sofa; pretty trays make any boring flat surface pop; and great-looking baskets breathe new life into a rigid bookshelf. Reorganize your books by size instead of author/theme/color. Experiment with temporary wallpaper, and adhere it to the back of your bookshelves for a fun accent. You can even change it out seasonally!