

BIA-Hawaii Remodelers

Members of the BIA-Hawaii Remodelers (BHR), the remodeling and restoration arm of the Building Industry Association (BIA) of Hawaii, will be offering helpful information on remodeling, landscaping and design over the next several weeks in this column. We know you will find these columns loaded with helpful information.

Our goal in life is to provide our clients with the tools they need to organize their life and maximize their space. This typically involves custom-built systems for the closet, home office, garage, pantry and even wall beds for guest rooms. We've put together some tips below that could help you make the most of your space. First, some fun facts:

Fact #1: Fifty percent of homeowners rate the garage as the most disorganized place in the house and a place the entire family uses regularly.

Fact #2: According to a study conducted by a Boston marketing firm, the average American wastes 55 minutes a day – roughly 12 weeks a year – looking for things they know they own but can't find.

Fact #3: A study in 2003 showed that getting rid of clutter around the house reduces the amount of time spent on housecleaning by 40 percent.

Fact #4: Storage facilities are going up everywhere on Oahu. If you're paying money to store "stuff" then consider how much it's costing you for two years. Now, instead, invest it into storage and organization systems in your own home.

Here are some tips to help you on your quest to an organized home:

Focus Area #1: The Garage

The garage is typically the entry way into most homes. Create a transition area where each family member has a space for jackets, backpacks, umbrellas, shoes and a bench for sitting. Don't forget a trash can by the door so junk mail never makes it into the house. When organizing the garage, shelves should be at least 3/4-inch thick and made of thermal fused melamine for water and moisture resistance. Cabinets mounted to walls or elevated on legs make it easier to clean and prevent moisture damage.

Focus Area #2: Closets

If you are like most people you wear 20 percent of your clothes 80 percent of the time. That means 80 percent of what's hanging in your closet you rarely wear so it's time for a donation run. We frequently tell our clients to start by purging what they can.

Next, consider organizing systems that can help you to maximize your space and make it easier to find the clothes you want in the morning. A closet designer can help by customizing your space with drawers; shelves; baskets; short, medium and long hanging sections; hampers, jewelry trays and dozens of other accessories. By making the most of the vertical space in their closet many of our clients are able to eliminate a dresser in the bedroom making more space for living. This is especially helpful in childrens' rooms where the room is typically smaller. Getting rid of the dresser can create more play area.

Aside from the garage and closets, other areas of focus should be the home office, pantry and entertainment areas. Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, organization is something that will make your life easier and reduces stress. With the hectic lifestyle that today's families have, who couldn't use less stress?

Organized Living's custom-designed storage systems can be built in a variety of laminate and custom wood finishes to match any décor throughout the home. We provide "free in-home consultations, and appointments can be made by calling 678-0096.

Showroom appointments can also be made Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our showroom is located at 94-547 Ukee Street, #307 in Waipio-Gentry near the H1/H2 merge.

Brent & Kamuela Potter
Owners,
Organized Living

