



Declutter

A spring cleaning checklist for every room

Bedroom

Surfaces

Examine items on all flat surfaces – the tops of dressers and nightstands, for example – and make sure they are all something you use regularly.

Closet

Take a close look at your clothes and shoes. A good rule of thumb is that if you haven't worn it in a year, you probably won't wear it again. The closet hanger experiment is a great way to examine how often you wear each item.

Under the bed

You never know what's accumulated under there – and it's time to find out!

Bedroom items accepted by most Habitat ReStores

Beds | Dressers | Nightstands

Kitchen

Cabinets

Perform a thorough cabinet sweep. Match containers and lids. Take stock of the dishes you need (and those you don't). Remove expired items and be sure to check that all spices are fresh.

Refrigerator

Clean out any old or unused items in the fridge and the freezer.

Drawers

Is the infamous "junk drawer" located in the kitchen of your house? If so, take out all items to assess what you really need.

Kitchen items accepted by most Habitat ReStores

Sinks | Refrigerators | Other appliances

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Living room

Entertainment center

Sort through Blu Rays, DVDs and CDs and donate any you no longer watch or want. Recycle any empty cases you find.

Drawers

Go through any drawers to remove trash and other unneeded items.

Shelves

Organize all shelves, getting rid of any unneeded items.

Living room items accepted by most Habitat ReStores

Furniture | Antiques | Rugs | Bookcases

Garage/basement/shed

Everyone's garage or basement or shed is different, and we've put them all together because what we are really referring to is the place in or around the house where extra stuff tends to pile up. This can be a closet, a finished basement, an outdoor shed or any place in between.

Donation piles

These spaces can seem overwhelming, so start with the easiest of all: donation piles. You've spent all year collecting items you need to donate, and it's finally time to load them up and take them to the various donation centers around town.

Categories

Divide everything left into categories and go through each category one by one. Tools, building materials, cleaning supplies, whatever it may be. Check for duplicates and get rid of anything that's broken – throw away if necessary but donate or recycle if possible!

Reorganize

For everything that you are keeping, organize by the same categories to help keep them organized year-round.

Bedroom items accepted by most Habitat ReStores

Doors | Lumber | Windows | Tools | Building materials