

lesson 1: organizing roadblocks



Hi! I'm so happy YOU are here! You're about to take the first step on a very exciting journey of change—physical change in your home, and change in your perspective on life. Organizing is so empowering. So freeing. So energizing! I'm just so excited you've decided to learn how to create more organization in your home and life. Congratulations!

GETTING STARTED

If you haven't done so already, be sure to take a few minutes to run through the workshop orientation. (To access the orientation, login to the workshop system and go to your "my checklist" page.) This orientation will show you all the ins and outs of using the Organizing Workshops system, including the forum, gallery and private message center. Then, come right back here and dig into the first lesson of Organizing 101.

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR ORGANIZING QUESTIONS

I'm here to help you throughout the class. In fact, we've set up some simple ways to get your organizing questions answered.

The most efficient way to get your questions answered is in the workshop forum. Simply post your question in the "mingle with classmates" section of the workshop website. By posting your question in the forum, you'll have the opportunity

to share ideas with classmates, plus I'll be hopping into the forum from time to time to answer questions, too. If you have a question specifically for me, post it in the "questions for Aby" forum thread.

Another way to get your questions answered is via private message. (Just check the workshop orientation for info on contacting me via the private message system.) If you weren't the kind to raise your hand in class, I know the first option could be a bit uncomfortable. (I was the same way, so I completely understand.) But do keep this in mind: the forum allows you to interact with others and chances are very good that someone else either has the same question you want to ask or *would* have the same question if they had thought of it! Your question could help someone else realize something or think about something in a way that had not even occurred to them yet. So please...ask away!

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

If you're having any technical difficulties throughout the program contact Jay.



Start getting a clear picture in your mind about what organized means to you. Look for images in magazines and think about the characteristics of the most organized people you know.

We've created a forum topic called "questions about using the workshop system". This will give you direct access to Jay. He's great at explaining "techie" things and would love to help you.

Our goal is for you to enjoy this program, learn a ton, and create real and lasting change in your life. Don't let any technical difficulties or unasked questions get in the way of that, OK? We're here to help!

INTRODUCTION

Before we dive into the lesson material, let's get a quick overview of the journey we're about to embark on. By the time you complete this workshop, you will have a solid foundation and a plan for organizing your home. Here's how we're going to get there.

In Lesson 1 you will learn how to uncover the obstacles that are standing between you and the organized home you crave, and what to do about it. In Lesson 2, you'll learn:

- The difference between storage and organization.

- How to maximize the storage space in your home.

- The role containers play in an organized space and how to select them.

- You'll also create an organizer's tool kit you can use to make your organizing projects simple to start and fun to finish!

In Lesson 3, you'll learn an easy to fol-

low organizing process. Plus, you'll take action on the concepts, so they really sink in. You'll tackle one small organizing project—such as your junk drawer, a bookcase, or a small linen closet.



In Lesson 4, you'll begin the process of creating your own personal organizing plan, eliminating that "I'm overwhelmed" feeling and your uncertainty about where to begin. We'll start by creating some overall organizing goals.

In Lesson 5, we'll wrap up your organizing plan, by creating a prioritized, organizing project list.

We'll wrap up the workshop in Lesson 6, where you'll learn simple strategies that will help you stay organized.

We have an exciting journey ahead of us! And I just can't wait any longer to get started. So let's go!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ORGANIZED?

So you're here because you want to be more organized, right? That's terrific! I truly applaud you for deciding to embark on this amazing journey.

But before we begin organizing, I have to ask you a question: Have you stopped to think about what "organized" really means? Have you thought in vivid detail what "organized" will look like? What it will feel like? What it will be like for you when you arrive at "destination organization"?

Organization is a pretty amorphous thing. If there's one thing I've learned from walking through countless clients' homes and viewing hundreds and hundreds of "before" pictures, it's this: organized means something different to everyone. Just as there's no one-size-fits-all organizing solution, there's no one-size-fits-all organizing definition. Everyone has a different idea of what it means to be organized, how it feels to be organized and how it looks to be organized. I believe that getting organized is a journey and that everyone has a different destination.



For some, the destination is a space that looks like the pages of Real Simple magazine: simple, streamlined, clean, and sparse. For others, the destination is a place where relaxation is possible: "things" are in order and there is time to pursue other interests like scrapbooking, hiking or playing games with the kids. For many, organized means knowing what's for dinner, actually having all the ingredients on hand, and having the time (and energy!) to prepare said dinner at the end of the day. For others it means paying the bills on time, showing up on time and basically just being calm and in control.



A search of www.dictionary.com gives many definitions for the word organized. My personal favorite is "methodical and efficient in arrangement or function." And yet, I realize this definition may be a complete turn-off to a creative spirit who wants to become anything but "methodical." Even if this definition were universally compelling and desirable, it would still fall short of carving out exactly how to get from your point A (less organized than desired) to your point B (more organized).

This is a sample of *Organizing 101*—a workshop from simplify 101. To continue on with this workshop, visit www.simplify101.com.