6 WEEKS TO A LIFE MORE ORGANISED

Week 6

Photos & Sentimental

Your Photos

We keep photos in lots of formats & in lots of places around our homes & on our phones and it's always one of those tasks that hangs over people.

Your Kit

- Large area to work in
- Dental floss
- Post its / index cards
- Storage containers with dividers
- Cotton gloves
- Bin bags

If the photos are memories that are worth keeping we need to take care of them rather than let them degrade in shoe boxes or yellowing photo albums. But, as always with organising it's important to set out what we're trying to achieve before starting on a (seemingly) never ending project.

STEP 1: GOALS

What is your goal in organising your photos - what are you looking to achieve? Having this in mind will help determine the solution you come up with.

STEP 2: COLLECT

You need to hunt and gather all your photos (in varying formats) and store them (like with like) in one place together.

Hunt & Gather

- Photos, negatives, albums, frames, cinefilm, slides, cameras, USBs, CDs
- Scrapbooks
- Memorabilia
- Passwords to cloud storage

Where To Look

- Dining room, in drawers
- Loft, wardrobes
- under beds, bedside tables
- Refrigerator!
- In frames,on walls
- Computer, hard drive, camera
- Phones

Using Your ABCs

STEP 3: SORT

You need to look at every single photo and make a decision about the ones to keep.

A - ALBUM

- Best photos in the collection
- Album - worthy
- Your priority to digitise

B - BOX

- Photos to support A's
- May / May not be digitised
- Will be saved in an archive box

C - CAN (discard)

- Blurry photos
- Photos of people or places you don't recognise
- Duplicates of the same occasion / group
- Bad memories
- Photos you don't look good in!!

S - STORIES

- Keep any photos (even if they aren't great) that help you tell the stories that you want to share.

Useful Apps

FilmBox by Photomyne will scan old negatives
Photo Scan by Photomyne is useful for scanning physical photos
Slide Scan by Photomyne will scan old slides

Be A 'W' Date Detective

The best way to sort your photos is in date order

Use whatever information you have to hand to date the photos

WHO

- Names & ages of family members
- Locations lived
- Events (births, marriages etc)
- Repeated holidays
- Pets
- Specific hair cuts or colours

WHEN

- Developing date (printed on the photo)
- Cakes & candles
- Card
- Fashion / hairstyles
- Special traditions

WHERE

- House numbers
- Google maps
- Buildings
- Signs
- Landmarks

Whilst you organise your photos have a shoe box or similar to hand where you can store your sorted photos safely mid project.

Separate the A's from the B's so you know which ones you need to digitise if this is your goal.

Save & Enjoy

STEP 4: SAVE

If you digitise your photos always save to 600 dpi - TIFF format is better than JPG (Photomyne doesn't specify dpi)

Consider outsourcing to a photo organiser/manager.

Alternatively you could hire (or even buy) a fast photo scanner (scan over 3000 photos in 2 days) - https://www.envio.rentals*
*not a personal recommendation - found on Google/I

FASTFOTO FF-680W

Fast auto-feeder scanner

- Scanner with auto feeder
- 30 photos in 30 seconds[1]
- Scan, enhance and share

Software for sorting photos - folder structures, dates, keywords

- Apple Photos
- Adobe Bridge
- Adobe Lightroom Classic CC (£120 a year)
- Photo Mechanic (£100 for licence)

Digital Photo Storage:

- 3 copies, 2 types of media and 1 off site (remote storage)
- Seagate is a good back up disc

Physical Photo Storage:

- Always in the main body of the house - not the loft or garage
- Photo Albums must have acid free paper
- Photo Boxes stored in one location

STEP 5: SHARE & ENJOY

Your 'A - Album' photos should be in a shareable format so that you are able to enjoy them.
DigitalCameraWorld.com recommends MixBook, Picaboo, Shutterfly & Snapfish

Any old camera equipment that you no longer need can be donated to RecyclingForGoodCauses.org or a local school/college for photography students

Sentimental Items

Tidying your sentimental items is an opportunity to 'put your past in order' so you can move on with the next phase of your life.

SENTIMENTAL

- ◯ Cards & Letters
- ◯ Awards | Certificates
- ◯ Childrens Memorabilia
- ◯ Academic Awards
- ◯ Family Heirlooms
- ◯ Antiques | Collectibles
- ◯ Gifts

By the time you get to sort your sentimental items you should believe in your ability to understand what brings you joy and look to keep & cherish the items that do this.

Don't rush sorting through them and if you can't move it on
keep it with confidence - but store it with care.
Have a designated memory box that sets a limit & curate it frequently.

Some 'helpful' tips from Marie Kondo:
School Uniform - try it on, it may well help you decide to let it go!
Diaries - one last read & think about how you'd feel if someone else read them.

You don't need the physical object to keep the memory - that's inside you,
if it helps take a photo and then let the item go.

If Everything is Special, Nothing is Special

Cards, Letters & Invitations

If you are holding on to greetings cards and letters gather them all together and consider what it is you are holding on to?

- Try to differentiate between the heartfelt personal message in a handwritten letter and a card with just a signature in it.
- Once they are all gathered together (from all the years) make decisions about what beings you joy - do you really need to keep all the cards from a 1st birthday party if you don't remember all the kids that came?
- Can you rediuce it down to just the most recent cards from close relatives and then rotate each year?
- If you still have a box of your wedding invitations and stationary now is the time to let it go - keep 3/4 invites in a wedding momento box.

Academic Awards / Trophies

- Obviously there are academic certificates that we 'need' to keep and these should probably be kept in with your important paperwork.
- Other academic or sports awards that we've kept along the way should be sorted and look to keep the achievements that really mean something - may be the certificates from early sports days can go.

Get Creative!

Do you need to keep the whole item?

- Childrens' blankets or first clothes can be used in patchwork toys or throws.
- Academic & collegs ties can be framed or made in to a cushion.
- Use papercraft punches to cut bits from Wedding or new home cards and pop them in a frame to enjoy them every day.

Childrens Artwork

Many of the families I work with struggle to let go of their children's artwork as they believe each piece of art, just like a photo, captures a moment in time.

Lots of homes have children's craft or art projects stored in piles around the house, stuck on the fridge or shoved into drawers. Often the paper is bent or slightly torn so it's not in great condition if you ever get round to displaying it.

- Have a system for selecting which pieces to display (involve the kids) and then rotate frequently.
- If you're keeping a piece you might want to write the date on the back of it along with the child's description of what the drawing is (this is always fun to look back on).
- I encourage the families I work with to just to keep the notable landmark/ developmental/first time pieces of art. Such as the first time they coloured inside the lines, Mothers Day / Fathers Day art, first picture of Mummy etc.

Go Digital
Scan or take photos of your kids artwork before letting it go or use a service like Doodle Nest to create photobooks or framed pictures or their masterpieces.

Make a Memory Box
Once you've displayed your art and rotated it there may still be a few extra special pieces that you want to hold on to – I suggest that you keep these in a memory box with other momentoes for each child. We keep our memory boxes in a plastic tub in the loft as they don't need to be kept close to hand

Storage

As always, the storage you buy has to be fit for purpose & the right size for what you are choosing to keep.

I'm always a fan of Really Useful Boxes as they tend to be hard wearing, withstand the elements and stack well (compared to cardboard boxes).

A quick search on Amazon brings up lots of cardboard and wooden smaller boxes (be realistic about how much you are storing!).

A Final Thought

Once you've worked through your home you may find that it has an impact on your shopping habits and will focus your mind on how you want to spend your time.

Just because your house gets messy doesn't mean you're failing...

It means life happened!

@theminimalistmethod

Having a home for everything really does help to keep on top of things and you'll find it's maintenance rather than continuously being a big job.

Temporary clutter is fine, life get's busy so don't panic...
A quick 30-45 minute reset is usually enough to feel back in control again.

A seasonal joy check on things such as wardrobes is perfectly normal styles change & so do we!

Thank You!

I hope you've found these last few weeks helpful and are well on your way to

Living A Life More Organised!

If you're finding anything particularly difficult or would like some help finalising your organising I'd love to come and help you out personally in home.

10% off a session taking place between 2nd - 18th June.

Reviews are really important to me as they help potential clients understand the benefits of decluttering & organising their homes.

If you feel you would like to leave a review for me please do so on either:

Google: https://g.page/a-life-more-organised-winchester/review?rc

Facebook: @ALifeMoreOrganised

or feel free to email me your feedback.

Happy Sorting!