



SYNOPSIS

Episode #23: Best Products for Organizing

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FINDING THE BEST ORGANIZING BIN

These bins are not listed in order of which is better than another. The perfect bin for you will be the one that is a perfect fit for an area you are trying to get organized.

There are links listed for all the bins, but you can find these bins or similar ones at most any store or on Amazon.

1 - ZIPPER POUCHES

These are pouches with a zipper on the top that come in various sizes ranging in large enough to hold full sheets of paper to small enough to fit into your purse.

These are great for storing different types of pens, toys, and puzzles. They also come in handy for keeping hair ties and travel toiletries contained when you are traveling.

2 - PHOTO BOXES

You can get photo boxes in 4x6 and 5x7 sizes. These are different from the zipper pouches in that they are rigid and snap closed.

These will also work great for puzzles. You can use them in your craft room to store supplies sorted by color. Cords and cables are also perfect for storing in a photo box.

3 - PAPER TRAYS

If you don't have a paper processing system, you can set up a single paper tray to serve as your inbox to sort through once a week.

You can set up a paper tray for each child to keep up with all the paper that they bring in from school and activities.

Place coupons in a paper tray to store them until you go out on your errands. You can then easily pull them out and take the ones you want to use.

Sort your different colors of craft paper in these to easily find and grab the color you need for your project.

4 - COMMAND STRIPS & HOOKS

Command strips and hooks are a easy, non-permanent way to organize using vertical space. They are also a perfect solution when in an apartment where you can't put holes in the wall.

You can use these to hang purses, handbags, display your jewelry, and to hang small cleaning supplies.

5 - CROSS STITCH THREAD ORGANIZER

This is a box that is about 8x10 and is divided into several small compartments. They are intended to be used to store cross stitch

thread, but they can be used for so much more. You can store beads, or small embellishments in them. You can also use them for small toy pieces.

Be cautious of micro-organizing, especially with kids' toys because chances are kids will not take the time to sort out all the pieces.

If you lean toward micro-organizing, these will work great for you, but if you don't, you may want to skip this type of organizing bin.

6 - SPICE JARS

Decanting spice jars can really elevate your spice organization, but the trouble with most spice jars is that they come in the exact same size as the jars the spices come in from the store, three ounces. This means that unless your "pretty" spice jar is completely empty, when you refill it, you will still have another jar to store.

The solution is to buy larger jars that will hold four ounces. They aren't that much bigger and they look the same, but they allow you to still have a little of the spice left and be able to completely empty the new jar into it.

7 - CUBE ORGANIZERS

These come in many different varieties of materials such as canvas, wood, and plastic. They work great in the cube storage shelves and are a good choice for you if micro-organizing is not your thing.

You can use these to toss in toys, craft supplies, clothing, sporting goods, and so many other things. You don't have to worry if they are organized inside the bin because you can't see inside.

There are clip-on labels you can purchase that slide on the bin so that you can label what is inside.

8 - LABEL MAKER

This is really a tool to help organizing your bins a little further. There are a few different brands you can purchase, but we recommend the DYMO label maker.

You can also buy Avery labels, such as the address sized labels, and go to Avery templates to design and print your own sticker labels.

If you have a die cutting machine, such as a Cricut or Silhouette, you can make your own labels. The downside of this is that they can be tedious and if you want to make more of the same labels in the future you have to be sure to use the same fonts and same color of vinyl, which can be a hassle.

9 - POLY ENVELOPES

These are large plastic envelopes that have a snap closure or a string closure. These are preferable to file folders because they keep everything contained and if you drop them, your papers won't slide out.

10 - MULTIPURPOSE BINS

Once found only at the Container Store, you can now find dupes at Target or Walmart. These are large, rectangular shaped bins that are pretty deep. They have a handle which makes them easy to put on a shelf and then grab them when you need them. They come in multiple sizes to fit a variety of spaces.