



## Junk drawer organizing

It's ok to have a junk drawer, as long as it's an organized junk drawer.

### Purge.

Empty contents of junk drawer. Toss all broken, expired and/or no longer needed items. Separate out anything that belongs somewhere else in the house. Can it go somewhere else that makes more sense – most things end up in a junk drawer because it was convenient to put it there at the time but chances are there is a better place for it in your home. Group like items - tape measure & screwdriver, pens & scissors, take out menus & coupons, etc.

### Think outside the drawer.

The junk drawer doesn't have to be a kitchen drawer, in fact it doesn't have to be a drawer at all. Below are some examples of what others have used as a "junk drawer".

- drawers in piece of furniture
- antique library card catalog
- old suitcases stacked up
- hat boxes
- tins/boxes/containers which sit on a counter/desk

Look around your house and get creative with where and what you use for your "junk drawer". Just think, you may end up with an extra drawer in your kitchen for something more useful.



### **Organize within.**

One of the reasons junk drawers get so messy is because everything is loose in the drawer. Keep your junk drawer organized with small organizers so the contents don't get all jumbled up. Use jewelry boxes & lids, shoe boxes (kid's size are good), mint tins (altoids), small plant pots and Tupperware,

When putting everything back into the drawer put like items together in the smaller organizers. Target, Container Store, Storables, [Organize.com](http://Organize.com) and [Kangaroomstorage.com](http://Kangaroomstorage.com) all sell small organizers - there are even ones that are designed specifically for junk drawers.

### **What goes in.**

No rules for what can and can not go in the junk drawer, however here are some ideas of things that you will find in most. Scissors, tape, small tools, tape measure, small sewing supplies, thumb tacks, take-out menus, coupons, pens, pencils, extra keys, note pad, batteries, and matches. Put the things you use most in the front of the drawer so they are accessible.

### **Maintain the order.**

Now that you've organized the drawer you'll want to make sure it stays organized. Plan on cleaning out your junk drawer at least once a year - you'll be amazed at how much you'll get rid of each year. The first time is always the hardest and after that it should take less than 10 minutes.