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A Note from Ann:

Wow, it's hard to believe how long this pandemic has drawn out. We're still working from home, trying to do our part. I hope you're all managing and staying well! Hopefully it will be over soon!

Good news! If you haven't already heard, Tesla will be building their new factory in our little corner of the world. The factory is already under construction and is located just East of I-30 between Hwy 71 and 969. It consists of 2,100 acres, of which 2 miles border the Colorado River. They will build the Cybertruck as well as Model Ys and Model 3s destined for the East Coast, and the Tesla Semi there.

The new factory will be open to the public. There will be a boardwalk and hiking and biking trails. It's going to basically be an ecological paradise. Birds in the trees, butterflies, fish in the stream. Tesla plans to hire up to 5,000 workers at an average salary of \$47,147, with entry-level positions starting at \$35,000. It will invest at least \$1 billion and is planning to make a factory of between 4 and 5 million square feet.

What does this mean to us? Yet another large company coming in, bringing jobs and people to the area, along with new commercial that is sure to pop up around it. Your home values are likely to see an increase with this new influx of money and the need for homes nearby.

We are still showing and listing properties - as you will note from the stats below! Feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss the protocols in place and how we can make it happen for you.

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Bastrop Area Monthly Statistics

Below are the current statistics for the Bastrop Area. The average home sale price for July was \$282,894, which is up 8.2% from the previous year. The average home sale price for 2020, so far, is \$268,793, which is up 12.4% from 2019.



Safe and Secure

Safe and Secure Protecting your property and your loved ones is a top priority for homeowners. Adding a home security system can provide peace of mind and help ensure the safety of what you hold dear. With current technology, installing security cameras is easier than ever. But owners still need to properly prepare before jumping into the project.



Planning—Owners need to select the right security system to fit their home's needs. Before purchasing equipment, start by identifying your home's vulnerabilities and determining key access points. This can help you assess the size and type of security system needed. Also consider the type of security cameras that will be used. From outdoor/indoor to wired/wireless, there are many options to choose from. Proper research and planning will help prevent headaches and save you money when shopping for equipment.

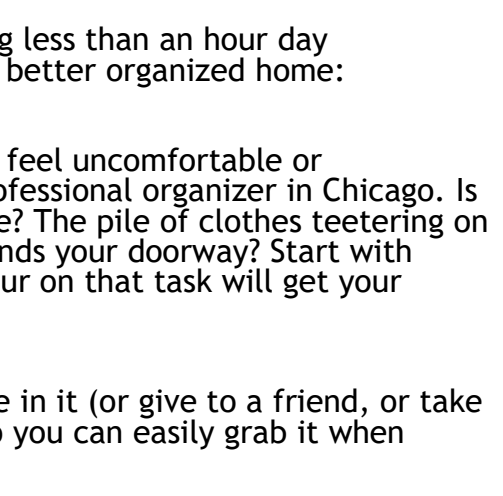
Placement—Every home is different, but the general rule is to always place a camera at your front door and back door, as these are the most common points of entry. Gates or garages are other areas where you may want to install cameras, and keep in mind that some walkways may need more than one camera to properly capture the entire area. Make sure to place the cameras facing slightly downward to accurately detect motion.

Installation—Once you've determined where the cameras will go, keep these things in mind. Make sure to mount the cameras out of reach from anyone on foot, as an intruder could otherwise break or disable them. Place the cameras in a position to avoid backlighting and lens flare. This means point the cameras away from areas that may have a strong light/reflection (like the sun or a street lamp) in the background to create a clear view. And ensure the cameras are not able to capture the inside of a neighbor's property, as this is a privacy violation.

Organize Your Home In a Month In Less Than an Hour a Day

By: [Jamie Wiebe](#)

A super-easy plan for getting organized without adding to your home-is-school, home-is-work, home-is-everything time burden.



Did you ever notice that your self-improvement pact with yourself are action oriented? Walk 10,000 steps a day. Fix that leaky faucet.

But "get organized"? It's a goal so broad that just trying to figure out what action to take makes you wonder what you were thinking in the first place. It's like you need an organizing plan for your organizing. Ta da!

Here it is. Follow these steps, spending less than an hour day (sometimes just a few moments), to a better organized home:

- 1. Do That Project**
"What about your space is making you feel uncomfortable or overwhelmed?" asks Amy Trager, a professional organizer in Chicago. Is it the paperwork disaster in your office? The pile of clothes teetering on your dresser? Or that mess that surrounds your doorway? Start with what's annoying you, she says. One hour on that task will get your organizing engine revving.
- 2. Create a "Go Away" Box**
Put anything you're planning to donate in it (or give to a friend, or take to recycle). And keep it by the door so you can easily grab it when you're leaving.
- 3. Deal With the Decorations**
Hallelujah — the holidays are over! Bring out last season, and your decorations by holiday. No need to dig through your St. Patty's clovers when you're searching for a menorah.
- 4. Create a System for Your Entryway**
Set up a "command center" so your front door doesn't become a lawless accessories arena, especially during winter months. Add hooks for coats, bins for shoes, and a mail sorter if you need it. (Remember to keep a place for your "go away" box).
- 5. Wrangle Your Pet Supplies**
Minimize the time spent scrambling when your pup is desperate for a walk or eager for a meal. Hang hooks and cubbies near the door and keep leashes, kibble, bowls, and toys in one convenient spot.
- 6. Organize Your Spices**
Arrange your herbs and spices alphabetically, by cuisine, or by brand — whatever makes them easier to find when you're in the middle of your noodle stir fry.
- 7. Pare Down Your Utensils**
You've accumulated several dozen kitchen utensils in your culinary career: can openers, microplanes, four (what?!) wine openers. Pare down the collection and use drawer dividers to keep the remainders in order.
- 8. Reconfigure Your Pots and Pans**
Stop digging around in your shelves for the oversized, cast-iron skillet. Donate the pots and pans you hardly use, and install cupboard organizers to help manage the rest.
- 9. Throw Away Expired Foods**
You never use Worcestershire sauce — except that one time. Go through your refrigerator and pantry and ditch or donate anything past its prime.
- 10. Stack Your Pantry Staples**
Make better use of your pantry by sorting through your staple dry goods — think flour, sugar, pasta, oatmeal, dry beans — and putting them in airtight, stackable containers. You'll free up a ton of space, too.
- 11. Downsize Your Kitchen Gadgets**
You had noble intentions when you purchased that spiralizer. (Zucchini noodles every night, right?) Give those space hogs to someone else with lofty dreams.
- 12. Say No to Coffee Mug Over-Saturation**
Every time you lose a sock, a new coffee mug appears. Keep one or two mugs for every coffee or tea drinker, and donate the rest.
- 13. Sort Your Food Storage Containers**
No singles allowed. Toss any tops or bottoms that have no mates.
- 14. Reassess Your Display Shelves**
Shelves crammed with knickknacks, books you'll never read, and stuff you somehow accumulated are just a waste of space. Donate books to the library, discard the junk, and arrange what's left in a way that pleases you.
- 15. Deal With Your Cables**
With a Roku, PlayStation, DVD player, and a cable box, it's no surprise your entertainment center is a mess. Create ID tags for each plug from bread tags or cable ties, and bundle the clutter together with velcro strips.
- 16. Put Clothes on New Hangers**
Switch your clothes over to the slimmer, grabbier hangers. They use less space and keep your clothes from sliding down to your closet floor. As you do this, discard the clothes you never wear.
- 17. Corral Your Accessories**
Belts, scarves, purses, hats — all the accessories that don't have a drawer or spot in the closet can end up everywhere. Buy an accessories hanger or install a series of hooks to give your wardrobe's smallest members a home.
- 18. Purge Under the Bed**
Under-bed storage is ideal for out-of-season clothing. But when out-of-season becomes out-of-sight and out-of-mind, clear out those clothes you'll never wear again from this precious storage space.
- 19. Declutter Your Desk**
When your workspace is swimming with collectibles, staplers, Post-its, and more, paring down can keep you focused when it's time to hunker down.
- 20. Shred Old Paperwork**
Not every form, statement, and tax record needs to stay in your filing cabinet forever. Check out this list to make sure you're not wasting space. Shred the rest to ward off identity thieves.
- 21. Tidy Your Files**
Now that you've shredded the paperwork you don't need, tidy up your files by organizing them and labeling them clearly. Colorful folders can help organize by theme (home stuff, tax stuff, work stuff, etc.).
- 22. Get Rid of Mystery Electronics**
Admit it. You've got a drawer where black mystery cords, chargers, and oddball electronic bits go to die. Free that drawer up for better uses, or at least get rid of the ones you know for sure are "dead."
- 23. Pare Down Your Personal Care Stuff**
Your intentions were honorable when you bought that curl-enhancing shampoo — but it expired two years ago, and you haven't used it since. Throw away any expired potions, salves, hair products, and medicines.
- 24. Tackle Under-the-Sink Storage**
Clean everything out. You'll be amazed at what you find (like those Magic Erasers you could never find). Then put back everything you're keeping in bins you can easily pull out so nothing gets lost again.
- 25. Hang a Shelf**
Wall storage is so often overlooked. Find a spot in your home where a shelf would solve a problem, and hang it. Maybe it's for some toiletries in the bathroom, or laundry supplies, or for your dog's stuffed toys.
- 26. Reduce Your Towels and Linens**
There are the towels you use — and the stack of towels you never use. Donate them to the animal shelter. Those torn pillowcases? Convert to rags or toss. Same for napkins, dishtowels, pot holders, etc.
- 27. Hang a Shoe Organizer**
Hanging shoe organizers can solve a ton of storage problems beyond the obvious. They can store scarves, mittens, cleaning supplies, craft supplies. You can even cut them to custom-fit inside a cabinet door.
- 28. Organize Your Junk Drawer for Good**
There's no shame in a junk drawer — but why not organize it? Dump the whole thing on one surface and sort everything into piles. Use drawer dividers to keep each pile in its own space.
- 29. Store Your Tools the Right Way**
Finding the right Phillips-head screwdriver to put together that cute IKEA bookshelf shouldn't be so hard. Track down your hammers and screwdrivers, and arrange them in one easy-to-access spot, such as a pegboard.
- 30. Plan for the Future**
See how much you've accomplished! Take a look around your newly organized home, making note of any spaces you missed. Then dream a bit about your next home project. Maybe paint that dining room, finally?

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