



Are You Stuck at Home? Now is the Perfect Time to Declutter!

We've all been asked, for our health and that of our community, to limit social interactions. That leaves us at home, getting creative on how to fill the hours. Perhaps you're binge watching shows you've wanted to see, finding a new chocolate chip cookie recipe to try, or catching up on reading those books that have been on your list, but you couldn't justify the time to enjoy. Maybe you can't tell anymore if today is a Monday or a Thursday, without your regular routine.

If you've read, streamed and baked to your heart's content, I have a wonderful DIFFERENT way to spend your time, while also helping others. All while staying home! **Decluttering** isn't just for those contemplating a move; it's helpful for all of us to look at our surroundings, and make positive changes. Here are some ideas on how to get started, and how it helps our community.

1. **The linen closet:** you don't need that many sets of sheets, towels, wash cloths, table linens and napkins. And honestly, when did you last set a formal table with a fabric tablecloth and fancy napkins? You can donate half of the contents of your linen closet and you won't miss the items. I know, because I've done that. And opening the door to see an organized closet, will bring a smile to your face. Please donate the items you no longer need to the Humane Society or Pet Refuge. They love having blankets, linens and towels (no pillows though), as they care for animals that don't yet have their forever home.
2. **Your clothes closet:** instead of buying more hangers when you run out, how about reducing your closet's inventory? Take an honest look at what you enjoy wearing, versus what you hang on to "because some day I might wear that." You have the time now, to try on each item, and if it doesn't make you feel confident, if it is too big or too small, or you haven't worn it in several years, donate it. Let someone else benefit from your discipline of not hanging on to something you don't wear. You can donate women and children's clothes to St. Margaret's House, or take all family members' clothes to Resale to the Rescue, or your favorite charity.
3. **The kitchen:** how many coffee cups are you truly using? We all have our favorites, so set those aside. Then create a box for those you will donate. Do the same with dishes, cooking utensils, bowls, pots and pans and cookie sheets. If you know someone setting up their first apartment or house, they can use these items. Or donate them to Resale to the Rescue on McKinley, in Mishawaka. All their proceeds go to local animal welfare organizations. And yes, I love animals! Find an organization important to you, and it will make giving that much more rewarding.

Think of decluttering as **SIMPLIFYING** your environment. It's a positive step to create a living space that is less busy and more peaceful. Plus you'll be doing something nice for others. Trust me – once you get started, you'll love how it makes you feel.

NEXT WEEK'S ARTICLE: how to tackle the garage, your office and your overflowing bookshelves.

Sharpe Realty, LLC

Kirsten Sharpe, Managing Broker/Owner
Cell 574.339.7959
kirstenjsharpe@gmail.com
www.SharpeRealtyLLC.com



SRS Seller Representative Specialist



Pricing Strategy Advisor



SRES® Senior Real Estate Specialist



Accredited Buyer's Representative