

# Restoring Order

TEXT BY PAUL SIMPSON



VISIT VIRTUALLY ANY HOME AND THE HOST OFTEN UTTERS AN ALL-TOO-COMMON warning: "Please don't look in there." "There" might be a basement that's a labyrinth of boxes, plastic bins, abandoned exercise equipment and hoarded furniture. Or perhaps "there" is a front hall closet, its door hinges straining against an avalanche of old coats, holiday decorations, and dozens of wrapping paper rolls poised to bury the hapless soul who turns the knob.

Wherever "there" is in your home, it's likely that this hyper-cluttered area has been that way for years – and it's even more likely that it will remain this way until you one day move. Fortunately, help is available for the legions of organizationally-challenged and neatness-averse: professional organizers.

Professional organizers provide a wide range of services. From purging your attic of items that have long outlasted their usefulness, to rendering your home open-house ready for a sale, to restoring order to an office overrun by such essential business paperwork as that 1998 Staples receipt for bulk pack Post-It notes; professional organizers can help you sift through your stuff to find and logically organize the 20% of it that you actually use. That's right. Whether it's clothing, books, sporting equipment or toys, according to the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO), you don't use 80% of the things you own.

NAPO's New England chapter is the nation's second largest with 90 of 120 members operating in Massachusetts. Through NAPO New England, the "organizing authority", you'll have an easier time finding a qualified professional organizer than you will trying to find your car keys the next time you're late for a dental appointment. When you hire an NAPO New England member, you benefit from their unique expertise, extensive network, and ongoing exchange of tips and ideas from other professional organizers.

Contact a professional organizer today for a consultation on how to reclaim that guest bedroom masquerading as a warehouse. You – and your visitors – will be glad you did. ●

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