



# Small Space Organizing: A Room-By-Room Guide to Maximizing Your Space

*Kathryn Bechen*

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## **Small Space Organizing: A Room-By-Room Guide to Maximizing Your Space** Kathryn Bechen

While we may admire the spacious rooms in large homes we see in magazines or on TV, let's face it: most of us don't live in rambling estates. Instead, we live in homes, apartments, or condos with small rooms and even smaller closets. But you can enjoy an organized, beauty-filled life no matter what the size of your space. In this practical book, readers will learn how to

- perform a room-by-room audit of their space to see if it's functioning at its best
- make the most of existing storage space and find clever ways to add more
- find creative ways to arrange furnishings and accessories that maximize space and bring harmony and style to the home

Whether empty nesters who are downsizing, newlyweds who are setting up their first nest, or anyone who needs creative new ideas, readers will love these strategies, tips, and solutions to maximize their space and enhance their quality of life.

## **Small Space Organizing: A Room-By-Room Guide to Maximizing Your Space Details**

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Author : Kathryn Bechen

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# From Reader Review **Small Space Organizing: A Room-By-Room Guide to Maximizing Your Space for online ebook**

## **Jolene says**

Just about all houses could use a little better organization and efficiency. In *Small Space Organizing*, Kathryn Bechen shows the reader how to examine a room's level of function, to creatively arrange areas to be both efficient and inviting, and to optimize each space, no matter how small.

*Small Space Organizing* by Kathryn Bechen is a great resource for those of us that need a little extra help in getting/staying organized. One of my favorite things was that as the author went through each room she had long lists of specific ideas for organizing common items in each room. Then at the end of each chapter there was a place for thoughts, notes and ideas. I found the book very helpful, although I did not have time prior to writing this review to actually try out all of the ideas I want to implement. This book is also convenient to use. After you read the first few chapters, you can skip around in the book according to whatever area of your house that you are focusing on at that time. I highly recommend this book as I definitely see myself referring back to it time and time again.

Available January 2012 at your favorite book seller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Revell Publishing, a division of Baker Publishing Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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## **Tara says**

Not a bad read that will help you organize the small spaces in your home, but I'd rather stick to Pinterest.

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## **Heidi says**

Only slightly to moderately insightful I think... I think most people are aware that glass and mirrors can make a room look bigger and that plastic silverware trays help keep drawers organized. I did come away with the concept of a "sink skirt" but that's pretty much the only completely new idea I got.

Also, I never want to see an alliterative sub-heading again. Please.

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## **Katherine says**

Her idea of what a small space is and mine are radically different. I laughed out loud when I got to her suggestion about the "Bathroom closet." Sure, lady; in my dreams.

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## **Lisa says**

Small Space Organizing by Kathryn Bechen

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Non fiction, self help

Kathryn Bechen is an award-winning journalist in the San Diego area. She specializes in lifestyle feature articles and has published several organizing and decoration ebooks. She blogs about timely lifestyle topics at [www.KathrynBechenInk.com](http://www.KathrynBechenInk.com)

After cleaning out my grandparents' households, then moving my parents and inlaws, I knew I wanted to leave less behind. This book has fantastic tips and spaces for notes, as well as a treasure trove of resources.

I live in a big farmhouse now, but it was built in the 1850s—back when you hung your clothes on hooks and kept your couple of pots and crockery on a shelf in the summer kitchen and wouldn't dream of having a privy in the house! Subsequent remodeling has given me four closets, two bathrooms, electricity and indoor plumbing. The kitchen is still the middle of the house with at least one door on every side, so the cupboards are minimal. I could have used this book when I moved in, even to this bigger home.

Bechen takes you on a trip around your house. Using examples from her life of moving, as well as years of experience, study, savvy and common sense, she helps the newly independent, the recently down-sized, the mobile modern family think about lifestyle in practical means that also take into account family mementoes.

She goes room by room to teach us to make the most of the tiniest living areas, and creating separate areas in a one-room apartment. Have no foyer, but always dreamed of one? Bechen shows you how to do it?

Miniature bathroom? Bechen gives you hints about creating a spa experience no matter the size. Using small pieces of furniture creatively, nightstands, small dressers and multi-purpose pieces are favorites, the author uses space in clever ways for storage and décor that won't seem crowded. I appreciated the area at the end of chapters to make notes to meet my needs, as well as resources to find the materials she discusses. Using clever rhyming alliterative headings, Behen makes even downsizing from a lifetime of memories seem doable.

My only quandary is that I'm short, and so uncomfortable thinking about using space vertically. Stepping stools take care of this, I know, but for aging or unsteady folks, that's not always practical. Otherwise, Small Space Organizing is a fantastic tool for those on the go or thinking of downsizing which I'll be happy to recommend.

“Available January 2012 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.”

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## **Julie says**

Least useful organizing book I've read. Not well formatted, either.

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### **Abbie Riddle says**

Kathryn Bechen is no stranger to small living spaces having lived in more than a fair share over the past 30 years. Instead of despairing Kathryn has allowed God to develop a talent at organization and style that make small space living livable and peaceful. As a mother of 4 children that home schools living in a 3 bedroom home that has a separate school room I am always looking a ways to maximize the space I have. My children are two to a room and there is furniture every where. Sometimes I feel claustrophobic even thinking about entering their rooms.

This book is just the book for a person like me. It is very practical, and well layed out making it an easy and enjoyable read. The down-side, if you could even consider it thus, is that you will feel motivated to tackle each room - even the ones that are pretty well organized. I particularly enjoyed the fact that she included helpful websites and products and that much of it was very reasonably priced.

This is certainly a book I would recommend - as it is helpful and does not leave you feeling utterly discouraged by the clutter you once thought was so very organized.

Thanks to Revel for this review copy.

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### **Kelly says**

Found this book a little disappointing. No pictures!!!  
I read it as an ebook, so lots of link, which is cool and helpful.  
But I didn't encounter much that was very new or helpful.

Too jaded, am I?

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### **Jen says**

#### **Good ideas**

I added a few new ideas to my list of ways to stay organized!  
I would recommend this book for anyone.

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### **Kazen says**

My husband and I live in small apartment - two small bedrooms, a tiny bath and toilet, kitchen, and living room all in 650 square feet. This book was not written for people like me.

If you have a more reasonably sized home and would like to minimize how much space your stuff is taking

up there may be some tips you can use. Best if you own though, as a good chunk of the solutions would never get past the landlord, like completely reworking closets, putting holes in the walls, and adding under the counter glass racks.

The chapter that struck me as the most tone deaf was "Kitchen and Dining Delights". Bechen assumes you have space to work with... I don't. My total counter space is less than three foot square so her recommendations of keeping knives in a butcher block or lining up "colorful canisters" made me laugh. And lose half of my workspace? No way!

I wouldn't mind so much if she was squarely targeting empty nest couples moving into a smaller home, say, or people who need help sifting through a mountain of possessions. But right there in the first chapter she lists out her audience, including new college students heading to a dorm room and those "living out your jet-set fantasy life in a tiny studio apartment in a trendy and expensive area of New York, Tokyo, or Paris". Those people will have even less to learn from Bechen than me.

It's tempting to give one star but I did glean a couple of interesting tidbits so two it is.

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## **Melanie says**

Having lived in 13 small home spaces in the last 30 years, Kathryn Bechen shares her knack for organizing and enjoying smaller dwellings by finding the joy and beauty in its smallness.

Attitude is everything in realizing the blessing of living in a smaller space. She begins her book for those downsizing and taking a look at their possessions that may also need to be downsized. Recommending that people weed out things before the move to help with the transition.

She gives detailed ideas for small studio apt style living with just one main room. Ways to organize paperwork, to utilizing the one room for all of the various needs it serves, hobbies, living, dining and sleeping.

She then goes on to each area of the house bit by bit suggesting ideas for organizing and beautifying the space. She gives websites to view for ideas in purchasing different organizers, and beautification tools.

Loved how she included an area for hobbies into the small living.

Great tool for getting organized in small spaces. More though for the idea of making the space you do have, work for you. Ideas that work for if you live in a small space or larger space to cut down on clutter and to create a beautiful home.

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## **Laura says**

Title: SMALL SPACE ORGANIZING

Author: Kathryn Bechen

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Genre: Self Help

More Americans than ever are choosing small homes. Some, due to economic reasons, some due to

circumstance. And some just because of the “green” movement causing them not to take up more than their fair share of space. Whether you live in a cozy cottage, an apartment or a miniscopic dorm room, you need ideas for storing your stuff so that your home doesn’t look cluttered.

**SMALL SPACE ORGANIZING** is the book for you. Ms. Bechen is a self-proclaimed small space living expert, who started out her married life in a small house only twenty feet by twenty feet. This book is a self-help book that will assist you in knowing what you want, what you need, and how to organize it. At the end of each chapter are questions for you to answer, and a section included for notes.

There are suggestions included on how to down-size, going from room-to-room. Such as, throw out anything in the laundry room that is empty or fell behind the washing machine. In the garage, get rid of the mower, and yard tools, and keep only a hammer and a few nails. In the bedroom, get rid of anything that is dated, etc. Of course, if you’re moving someplace with a yard, you might want to rethink keeping outdoor tools.

Then the book talks about storage things such as a coatrack, that you can use to hold umbrellas and coats. No closet required! And dishes—you can eliminate all special china plates and use only white all-purpose dishes and clear glassware that will be good for everyday and entertaining. It gives suggestions for keeping clutter cleared, such as hanging your keys in the foyer, processing mail in the kitchen by the trash can, and storage.

Really, if you have no idea how to organize your clutter, this is the book for you. If you are looking for a tip on what you might consider eliminating, this book will work. If you are moving from a super-sized mansion to a tiny nursing home room, well, just eliminate everything. (smile) And Ms. Bechen uses some of her storage tips as decorating tips as well. A book that any small space dweller (or soon to be one) will need. \$12.99. 234 pages.

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### **Jillianne Hamilton says**

"Small Space Organizing" is a good read, and I got quite a few wicked storage ideas for my new place. I only wish there'd been a little more advice for apartment dwellers who can't paint a wall any color or install shelves right into a wall without giving up their security deposit. And maybe a little more budget conscious. The author obviously has a lot of experience with the subject, and she goes into detail about all the little ways she found to live better in small spaces. And ways she helped clients organize their small spaces too. But she probably mentioned her glamorous high rise flat with an in-building gym about 10 times. The most my building can boast is a grocery store down the street!

I think the next time I purchase a book like this, I'll be going for something with pictures so I can see examples of storage ideas, rather than just descriptions.

I really did enjoy the book, despite these comments.

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### **Susan says**

January often brings the "urge to purge." We've gotten a new load of stuff at Christmas, maybe watched a few too many episodes of "Hoarders," and before you know it: ugh! We just want to get rid of some of the

stuff that most of us in America have way too much of.

Kathryn Bechen addresses this in her book, "Small Space Organizing." She advocates living in smaller spaces, which is kind of an "in" sentiment, given the state of our economy. Current trends are actually to downsize and live in smaller spaces, and this book addresses that. What do we really need in an apartment, dorm room, studio apartment, or smaller home? How can we decide what to keep and what to give away, and how can we organize what we do have?

Kathryn's best small space organizing tips?

1. Keep your gadgets and appliances simple by buying only what you'll truly use.
2. Use all-white dishes and clear glassware to cut down on how many dish sets you buy. If a dish breaks, you can easily find a new similar white piece and not have to get a whole new set.

I found this book to be repetitive in spots and offer little in the way of earth-shaking, new ideas. But, it was helpful nonetheless in making me think about the objects I surround myself with: what's important and what's not? In the end, it's all just stuff, so we're best not to attach too much emotional sentiment to items. This would be a great book for a teen heading to college, for a couple getting married, or for anyone who's downsizing.

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## **Brigid Keely says**

"Small Space Organizing: a Room-By-Room Guide to Maximizing Your Space," by Kathryn Bechen, is pretty much what it says on the cover. It's a well-written guide to living a full life in a small space.

I read 4 books on de-cluttering/organizing in a row, 3 1/2 of them in one day. (3 of them, including this one, were about Jesus; one was about Feng Shui/Reiki) This one was the best of the lot, and I wound up taking several pages of notes (including answering a long questionnaire) and rethinking how we use certain rooms in our apartment.

That said, the book largely assumes the reader is an older, established person who is downsizing a home by choice (although lip service is given to college students moving into a dorm/starter apartment, and hip young people living in a major city as they start their hip young lives) and not a working class person (with kids) muddling through too-small apartments for decades. There's a certain class of people the book is aimed at and largely that person is not me. There's a lot of talk about fine antiques and quality furniture and hiring interior decorators and beach views, for instance.

Bechen also, oddly, seems to advise using a car to store extra things? I don't... what? She also assumes one has closets, and possibly a storage locker/bay if one is in a condo/apartment (I haven't had one of those since 2005). She also mentions using checkbook boxes as drawer organizers-- who uses CHECKBOOKS?-- and mentions laptops and eReaders but not tablets, an interesting oversight given how recent the book is.

She also assumes one has a master bedroom/bath, has a spare room, and gives the breezy advice to "buy the best quality goods... BUT FOR LESS!!!!!!" Oh wow thanks, I never would have thought to use coupons/buy things on sale/shop at an outlet mall. GROUNDBREAKING ADVICE.



Frustrations aside, I enjoyed the bulk of the book, especially her keywords of LOOK, FEEL, and FUNCTION. What is the function of a room? How do you use it? How do you want to use it? What is preventing you from using the room the way you want? How do you want to feel when you enter your living space? What prevents you from feeling that way?

I live in a vintage apartment that has almost no closets (no hall closet/coat closet, no bathroom/linen closet, tiny bedroom closets, the large pantry is occupied by the furnace and the fridge, no storage in the basement). We have three adults, a child with a lot of toys, stacks of books, and just... general... STUFF. I've been on a quest to get rid of stuff and have purged a LOT (thank you, Marie Kondo and "the Life Changing Magic Of Tidying Up") but I'm still trying to figure out how to live the best life I can in this apartment, that we'll likely be in for at least another decade.

For all my earlier complaining, Bechen does a great job of asking incisive questions about what a person wants out of their home, how a person uses their home, and helps get them thinking about what they want and what they can change. I got a lot out of this book.

I'd really like more de-cluttering books that 1) were secular and 2) didn't assume you had money.

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