

August 2004

“Make Your Life Easier: Professional Organizers”

By Ellen Ryan

Get rid of clutter by hiring a pro to go through your piles of stuff.

Need to unclutter your basement before putting a house on the market? Has a loved one died and left belongings to sort through? Do you waste time searching through piles of paper? A professional organizer can help you decide what to toss and how to store the rest. These organizers tackle everything from kitchen clutter to paperwork, promising to leave behind a system that will make you more efficient. More referrals are available from the local chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO), 202-362-6276, dcorganizers.org. Most organizers charge an hourly rate, and have a two- to four-hour minimum. Many charge for travel time beyond a certain driving distance.

Organizer	Area of Service	Hourly Rate	What's Special
Dynamic Organizing; Silver Spring; 301-792-8367 dynamicorganizing.com	Metro area	\$50- \$70	Laura Cambridge offers paper, space and time management. Microsoft certified, she does computer files too.
Back in Sorts Organizing Service; Rockville; 301-603-7678; janecam@starpower.net	Metro area	\$45	Have trouble tossing things? Jane Campbell has a PhD in psychology.
Back to Order; Bowie; 301-464-3123; backtoorder.com	Maryland, DC	\$40- \$50	Joyce Hedgepath specializes in ADD clients.
Clearly Organized; Reston; 703-471-6085; clearly-organized.com	Metro area	\$50- \$60	Florence Feldman and her staff aim for long-term organizing and maintenance.
Closets 911; Alexandria; 703-845-1473; closets911@erols.com	Metro area	\$55	Sally Reinholdt not only clears out closets and other clutter; she'll haul stuff away.
Clutterbusters!; Rockville; 301-309-9614; theclutterbusters.com	Metro area	\$70	Betsy Fein and her team are available on 24 hours' notice. Also arranges photo albums.
ClutteRx; Olney; 301-774-2827	Metro area	\$60- \$75	Besides organizing attics to basements, Ellen Newman gives workshops on

			downsizing.
Come to Order; Northeast DC; 202-526-2667; cometoorder@comcast.net	Metro area	\$60	Peggy Hackett specializes in home offices; works weekends and evenings. Military discounts.
Create Space!; Kensington; 301-946-0236; createspace.biz	Montgomery County, DC, Northern Virginia	\$55-\$85	Pamela Butler-Stone knows feng shui and design and can make a room beautiful as well as functional.
Getting It Straight; Springfield; 703-912-9284; getstraight@msn.com	Metro area	\$45-\$85	Barbara Jolly wrote a book on managing households, based on what she learned in the Navy.
Glad 2 Organize; Vienna; 703-725-3827; glad2organize.com	Montgomery County, DC, Northern Virginia	\$75	Gladys Kozlik is willing to work some weekends.
Great Solutions; Ashburn; 703-724-1129; greatsolutions.org	DC, Northern Virginia	\$75	Melinda Mitchell specializes in clearing up paper.
Insightful Solutions; Woodbridge; 703-497-5904; insightfulolutions.org	Montgomery County, DC, Virginia to Fredericksburg	\$65-\$75	Melissa Sorensen is the local NAPO president.
Jill-of-All-Trades; Capitol Hill; 202-544-5455; jilltrades2@aol.com	Inside Beltway	\$85	Jill Lawrence, a "certified chronic disorganization specialist," can work with ADD, elderly, and disabled clients.
Kathy Clutter Buster; Rockville; 301-460-6858	Montgomery County, DC	\$60	Kathy Lelis, a "gentle organizer," has been in business 11 years.
Karen Johnson Moy; Arlington; 202-550-2225; karen@moys.biz	Inside Beltway	\$60-\$75	Moy, who handles only home offices and businesses, can help you make sense of information overload.
Organize This!; Bethesda; 202-236-7323; fgcohen@verizon.net	Bethesda, DC, Chevy Chase	\$85	Fran Garten-Cohen can make better use of existing space and help re-adapt rooms for greater functionality.
Perfect Timing; Derwood; 301-926-6754	Metro area	\$60	Want a long-term change in clutter control, not just to clean up a mess? You're Joyce Becker's kind of client.

Personalized Solutions; Alexandria; 703-921-5478; personalized solutions.net	Montgomery County, DC, Virginia to Richmond	\$70	Jill Weaver enjoys working with children.
Simply Organized Systems; Silver Spring; 301-384-6310; sosorganizer@yahoo.com	Maryland, DC	\$55	Has a loved one died or moved to smaller quarters? Lynette Bell can help, even pulling together important papers.
TimeWise; Northwest DC; 202- 686-1302; twiseinc@aol.com	Metro area	\$70- \$90	Terry Watson has specialized in paper and information management for nearly two decades.