



# Tips for Cleaning up the Craft Room

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Struggling with getting started? You're not alone! Here are 8 tips from a quilt maker, designer, and Professional Organizer who shares what works for her so you can fall in love with your crafting space!

1. **Have a plan.** Are you a professional crafter with a business to run? Are you a hobby crafter? Both? Get clear on what you want from your space, and why. Are you hoping to streamline your processes? Do you need to downsize so there's less clutter and fewer distractions?
2. **Stay put.** Once you start cleaning your craft room, stay in your craft room as much as possible to limit distractions or the urge to hop to a different-but-related objective. It can be tempting take all the mugs upstairs, and then suddenly you're tidying up the kitchen. Stack the dishes to take to the kitchen as you finish your session, and resist the urge to leave.
3. **Spoil yourself.** Design your area for peak efficiency and physical comfort. Keep things you need daily within immediate reach, and set up systems to access what you need less often. Ergonomics are important, and doing this well ensures we can keep crafting without injuring shoulders, backs, and hands.
4. **Digital space matters too.** Most crafting includes computers to some extent, so make sure you organize your digital info with the same principles of ease, access, and comfort. You can organize patterns, process photos, maintain sheets for inventory and purchases, and back everything up so you don't lose it.
5. **Your equipment is your partner in craft.** Maintain your machinery and equipment so it continues working smoothly and painlessly. There's nothing worse than rushing to complete a project only to have a machine malfunction, or a pair of dull scissors cut something poorly. Scissors, rotary cutters, and needles all work best when they're sharp, just like we do!
6. **Make it easy to find.** Clear sided totes and bins makes it easy to quickly store and find things again. They also help keep things clear of dust and pet fur, plus they're easy to grab if you're heading out to a class.
7. **It's okay to move on.** If you're finished with a hobby and ready to try out something new, go for it! In the past I have been deeply into cross stitch, card making, upholstery, and now it's quilts. You don't have to finish everything you start. This is why most of us have WIPs waiting to donate to a guild or charity of people who like to finish things.
8. **Keep planning.** If you like schedules and routines, use them! If you don't like schedules, find alternatives that are more flexible and keep crafting fun and engaging. Planners can help you keep track of details, upcoming shows, your supply inventory, and track costs. If you don't know where to start, take a look at ***Legacy Keeper: The Journal for Quilters & Knitters*** for some ideas!