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SENSE AND SENSITIVITY
-- by Harriette Cole

Debris grows so it's time to clean up

Dear Harriette:

My house is an absolute mess. When my kids moved out, their rooms became offices for my husband and myself. We are pack rats and the house has gotten out of hand. There are papers everywhere and it's in total disarray. Do you have any suggestions to help us organize this stuff?
-- Rebecca, Brooklyn

Rebecca:

Removing clutter and creating order can be challenging for people who have been gathering stuff for years. You need to figure out a system that will support your lifestyle. Jen M. R. Doman, president of Get It Together! Home, Office and Estate Organization recommends that one day a week you devote at least an hour to going through your stuff and discarding whatever you can while labeling what you want to keep.

You may want to go one step further and hire an organizational consultant to help clean up. Because I am super-busy and not naturally neat, I used Jen's services in my office, and she transformed what had been chaos into a perfectly organized space.