



How to Organize (Just About) Everything: More Than 500 Step-By-Step Instructions for Everything from Organizing Your Closets to Planning a Wedding to Creating a Flawless Filing System

Peter Walsh

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Professional organizer Peter Walsh presents this witty and enormously practical guide to getting it -- and keeping it -- all together. With more than 500 easy-to-follow how-to instructions, *How to Organize (Just About) Everything* is packed with shrewd advice and insider tips to make your home, your workplace -- indeed, every imaginable aspect of your life -- run more smoothly. Step-by-step solutions help even the most organizationally challenged take on:

Kids

Schedules

Storage

Photos

Lists

Politics

Education

Remodels

Meals

Weddings

Finances

Holidays

Parties

Vacations

Emergencies

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Date : Published January 11th 2005 by Free Press (first published December 28th 2004)

ISBN : 9780743254946

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Format : Hardcover 576 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Self Help, Reference, How To

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From Reader Review How to Organize (Just About) Everything: More Than 500 Step-By-Step Instructions for Everything from Organizing Your Closets to Planning a Wedding to Creating a Flawless Filing System for online ebook

Rachel Howard-hines says

Peter Walsh has gained a reputation for his home and life organizational abilities through appearances on HGTV and Oprah, and I like his no nonsense approach, so for this book I had similarly high expectations. Walsh has always impressed me with his efficiency and non-nonsense style that also addresses the "why" to help us understand why this generation is drowning under so much stuff.

This book undermines that reputation by being inefficient and a case of either hubris or terrible editing. Walsh includes lists so outside the realm of what anyone might want or expect in a book of this variety, including: how to organize an international adoption, how to plan to spend Christmas solo, to my favorite, how to become a physicist. If I had wanted instructions on how to become a stunt person, I doubt I would have referenced this book, which is why I think he may need to add a chapter entitled, "How to hire a good book editor."

There are useful items in the book that you would expect like organizing closets and how to schedule yard work, but in including over 500 pages that include disjointed and all over the place lists like how to become a rabbi or how to plan a baptism, the book itself undermines Peter Walsh's hard earned reputation as an efficiency expert, let alone someone who can organize his own ideas concisely.

Andrea says

I am a dork and love to just read books like this!!! What is sad is I do not even have enough space to really organize much of anything. It would be fun to read through this again if I ever bought a home.

One tip I am excited about using has to do with an umbrella stand and wrapping paper....you will just have to come over to see what I am going to do with them.

Renee says

Well Peter covers just about anything you can imagine. It is really overkill, and the book is quite overwhelming. I would have preferred a condensed version with diagrams or pictures on typical home organization situations. There were many topics that the average person will use such as, "Become an Olympian, outsmart Pirates (yes not a typo), plan to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, become a cowboy," I will give him props for coming up with so many situations and listing all the measures to take. Out of 576 pages, there were maybe 200 that was stuff I could actually use. I still found it somewhat entertaining so I am giving it 3 stars.

Megan says

There were so many items covered that there was no meat to any of the items. And seriously - "How to have an amicable divorce" doesn't belong in a book on organization. Don't waste your time with this book.

Michelle Funderburg says

I seriously think this book was meant to be a joke.

Elizabeth says

This isn't really a book your "Read". it is a reference book with, literally, info on how to organize everything. Someone else put a hold on the book before i had a chance to really go through it, but i will check it out again after i clean sweep my house.

Kate says

This is a really great resource--an organizing book in encyclopedic format, so you can easily look up a current project, without having to read an entire book just to pick up an organizing theory with a few embedded tips.

Leah says

Rating: 3.5 of 5

How to Organize (Just About) Everything truly covers "just about" every dang thing a person would need to organize. From the common, "37 Conquer Clutter," to the rare, "472 Fight an Ebola Outbreak," I daresay if you want a general overview on how to organize or plan it, the steps are in this ginormous guide.

I found the action plans too broad for my style, but I guess "broad" had to be expected from a book covering such a wide range of activities. Contents were organized into:

- * Get Organized
- * Life's Nitty Gritty
- * Daily Debris
- * Heart & Home
- * Yard & Garden
- * Storage Solutions (I found several nuggets of useful info)
- * Education & Career

- * Business & Work (I found several nuggets of useful info)
- * Financial Plans
- * Family Affairs
- * Food & Entertaining
- * Celebrations & Events
- * Community Works (I found several nuggets of useful info)
- * Travel & Adventure
- * The Unexpected (This is where Terrorist Attacks, Ebola, etc were listed)
- * In Your Dreams

And the Index was quite useful.

I'd recommend this book more to the person looking for a quick, all-in-one reference guide for a specific project than the person looking for an in-depth how-to.

Heidi J. says

This was very entertaining and a great jumping-off point for ideas to tackle projects that I've always wanted to. However, this is not the source to turn to if you need detailed organizing help for specific projects.

Kristen says

I found the sillier lists, like Becoming an Astronaut, Winning an Academy Award and Becoming President to be interesting and gave a good perspective. Also, there's a Pirates one talking about literal modern day pirates- people who come on your boat and steal your stuff, not rum-drinking one-legged pirates of yore. I hadn't thought of that before.

Everyone's situation is going to be different- it'd be impossible to write a book that addresses every minutiae for varying situation. But it's easy to get the basic ideas- for instance, to organize anything, you need to take everything out of the space, and then put the stuff you still want back in the space. That's an astoundingly simple but good solution. It gave me good ideas on food trees, car rallies, and block parties, too.

Jen B says

I love anything to do with organizing, so I love books by Peter Walsh. His advice is usually very practical and makes the sometimes daunting tasks of organizing seem pretty easy. But I have to wonder what the heck he was thinking with this book. Some of his lists (How to organize your files, how to plan for retirement) are very practical and offer good advice. But then half the lists in the book are just kind of silly -- How to Become a Nun, Become a Rabbi, Develop a Reality TV Show, Become a Movie Star, etc. My guess is that if you're actually going to do any of those things, you don't really need his book to tell you how. This one would've been much better had it just stuck to practical topics.

Martine says

This is not a book you read from cover to cover, it's more like a dictionary type book where you pick and choose the categories / subject matter and read the section. There is about a page for every subject imaginable, from organizing a specific room, to planning a trip, a school paper, a family, choosing a school.....the list goes on. The ideas / tips are very broad and vague, but if you're just getting started on your organizing, this is a good place to start.

Kristen says

I obviously didn't read this cover to cover, but it is an amazing reference guide for organizing everything you can possibly think of. I'll reference it when I'm ready to tackle organizing projects.

False says

576 pages of a hardcover book, and you don't even get the burning of Atlanta. I didn't expect much of this book. I already have good organizational and planning principles in place. For a beginner? It might give them a jumping start, but there isn't enough detail in any one section to see you through, and then beyond. Plus so much is "fluff," "How to Become An Astronaut," "How to Win An Oscar." Amusing (and sensible) but a waste of paper. This book isn't supposed to be about waste, but rather controlling it. I'm so organized (laughing) I read a section a day. Also, with an earlier publishing date? He needs to beef up his section on technologies and organizing all of "that": Twitter, Facebook, Blogger, web page domains, etc. plus the equipment.

Sarah says

I read this primarily for wedding information. It's very succinct; the kind of thing you'd photocopy and thrust at the groom-to-be to give him an overview of what wedding planning involves. The rest of the book covers an incredible number of topics. I might skim back over the closet organization! This book is HUGE.
