

## The GLO Guide to Containers

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Don't be fooled into thinking that containers will magically mean you are organized! If you are simply buying containers and not doing the other steps then get a clutter buddy or call Kate! Also, just because something is in a container, doesn't mean it is organized.

**Being organized means finding what you need when you need it.**

**Follow Julie Morgenstern's acronym for getting organized:**

Sort  
Purge  
Assign a home  
Containerize  
Equalize

In Organizing From the Inside Out, NY: Henry Holt, 1998  
<http://www.juliemorgenstern.com/>

### Tips to save time and money when buying containers

- ✓ Notice that buying containers is step four, not step one.
- ✓ After sorting and purging items you will donate, recycle or discard, then decide where the remaining items will go (assign a home).
- ✓ Keep the items near where you will use them.
- ✓ Do not stack more than two containers if you are getting to them frequently.
- ✓ Measure, measure, measure!
- ✓ Do NOT buy a container unless you have measured the space where it will go. What a hassle to have to return items
- ✓ Take your measuring tape to the store because the size isn't always listed.
- ✓ Chose function over beauty, but try to do both if you are visual learner.
- ✓ Avoid single use organizing containers unless you are sure you will use them:  
Example of too narrow use: an onion keeper. Do you really need this?  
Examples of multiuse containers: **clear** small, medium, and large bins, shower caddies, over-the-door pocket organizers, and baskets.
- ✓ Use color as a quick clue to the contents: orange for Halloween, red/green for Christmas.
- ✓ Use clear containers for all other non-holiday items.
- ✓ Always remember to label the containers, so your system will be used by all.
- ✓ Overstacking, lids that are hard to get off, and an out of the way location will all undermine an organizing system too. Experiment with what works best.