



April 2017 – Reorganizing when the kids come back!

Where did the college year go? What, they are back home again with all their stuff? Say it isn't so.

Ok, now reality kicks in, and we have the date to pick up our kids for the summer — with all their stuff — so we know it's inevitable.

Here are a few ideas to help reduce everyone's stress level:

A. Touch base with your students now and see if there is anything that can start coming home in April, such as winter clothes and boots. Any items are helpful so everything doesn't return in one full swoop.

B. for all her college stuff for the summer — plus we wanted it accessible when she left a few months later. So lucky for me, my husband built a few shelves which, thankfully, held her stuff.

B. She brought items home in a few large storage containers, plus those plastic IKEA bags came in handy for the big, chunky stuff. She kept her manuals in a file folder which I had safely stored at home in case we needed it (but we all know that you can find any manual online these days!).

C. She started bringing her unneeded clothes back first and then began looking around her dorm room for what was really necessary to keep during the last weeks of school.

D. I merged her grocery items with mine because I planned to buy her fresh items when she went back to school in the fall. Her toiletries made it back into the bathroom, which luckily for her brother, he never took over.

E. Finally, she had a 3-drawer container for her socks and under garments, which just stayed in her bedroom the whole summer. That made it easier to bring that back to college untouched.

F. You should be prepared to do several extra loads of laundry — sheets, comforter, etc. — which then can be packed away. I like to throw a dryer sheet in the container so things remain fresh.

G. Have your child create a list of what items need replacing before they go back to school. Then you'll have the summer to shop for it.

H. If your child brings everything home in one trip, try and schedule a full day or two and go through it with or without them and package it according to the different categories — medicine and first aid, school supplies, etc. Then, there will be fewer headaches when it's time to help them pack for back to school. Plus, you won't find that moldy sandwich that your kid forgot to tell you they threw into a container while emptying their fridge back in April.

I. You may also have to look around their bedroom to see if you have "temporarily" placed any items there until you found a proper home for that piece (such as that extra table you bought at a garage sale). And that's the time to make the decision with any "questionable stuff" — are you going to keep, fix, throw or donate it?

Your reward for all this work as summer starts? Sit back and enjoy your favorite cocktail! It's going to be a long 4 months! (Just kidding!) Plus your grocery bill will doubled again.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/linda-wolff/college-kids-home-for-holidays_b_4312936.html

Upcoming Events

Date: Thursday, April 27 @ 6:30pm

Topic: Turn Your Treasures into Cash

Location: Flint Township-McCarty, 2071 S Graham Road, Flint, MI 48532, (810) 732-9150

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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