



May 2014 – “Who’s coming over? Yikes, get the baskets!”

Has this come out of your mouth? Do you want to have a space ready to entertain or have available so if a friend calls, you can pick up a few items and feel good about your house?

Here are a few questions to ask about your space:
How do you want to use the great room/living room - for entertaining, playing video games, or just to relax?

The important thing to remember is what space has what function.

Grab a few boxes. The first thing is we need to de-clutter. A room looks better with fewer items in it. I keep my knickknacks in my bookshelves where there is some storage, but then I can exchange items out according to the theme of the season. I have bought something new, and then I try to donate or really ask myself do I still love the item and can I find a home for it elsewhere. We also are entering the season of garage sales and church bazaars. We may be able to donate our items there. It’s a win/win for everyone.

The second step is to assess the furniture. Do you have too many pieces? You may want to start with the largest piece of furniture and use that as an anchor. So if you have a couch and are planning on using the great room to watch TV, you would want to center the couch across from the TV.

If you plan to do a lot of entertaining, keep your eyes out for portable coffee tables that you can place around the space to allow your guests to place their drink/plate.

If you are having a large gathering, you can have guests use wine charms to distinguish their glasses from one another. Or, some people love going to garage sales and purposely buying mismatched glasses so that makes it easier. When we entertain groups, I will even pull out the plastic/styrofoam cups and place a few sharpies nearby so guests can label their glasses however they wish.

If you are going to be using the great room to play video games, I would suggest getting some bookshelves or cabinets for storing your games and peripheral products. I’ve seen many people use baskets and place the different categories of games in the baskets along with the different instruments it needs.

Don’t forget to take a look at what you’ve got displayed on your walls. A common mistake about hanging pictures is that we hang them too high. Here are two rules from <http://johans.com/blog/posts/7-rules-for-perfect-picture-hanging>:

“As a general rule, hang art at eye level, which is 58” to 60” off the ground to center of image. Don’t hang pictures at different heights in the room. Keep them at the same level so your eye is not bouncing from picture to picture.

When hanging a picture over a piece of furniture, leave 6” to 8” above the sofa, table, chest, sideboard or mantel.”

I wish you luck on tackling your great room.

I also wanted to share an article that I appeared in this month’s issue in My City Magazine <http://mycitymag.com/life-is-better-with-betty/>.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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810.348.1772

betty@logicalplacement.com • www.LogicalPlacement.com

