

Productive to the Max

Productivity

Performance

Profitability

Are you a Packrat?

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Can you respond affirmatively to the following questions?

1. My life is on display, and my environment resembles a museum.
2. I have objects taking up valuable space and causing stress.
3. I am very sentimental about my possessions.
4. I hesitate to throw things away. You never know when they may come in handy.
5. I haunt garage sales and flea markets.

If you answered yes to the above questions, then you indeed demonstrate packrat tendencies. It is essential to retain what gives you pleasure and to dispose of what has outlived its usefulness. You need to make room for new objects and as a result create new memories. If you find it difficult to get rid of anything, pack it up in a box, label the box with the current date and place it in another location (like the garage) If, after 6 months, you have not gone near the box, toss it.

Realize you are wasting precious time because your stuff is taking over your life. You are spending time looking for items, crawling over boxes and generally searching for lost or misplaced items. This is time you can never retrieve. Don't you want to spend your time in more important pursuits?

Understand why you are this specific organizing personality. Are you holding on to items because they are really sentimental or because they represent where you have been, what you have accomplished and what you think you have to do? Focussing on some self-analysis will allow you to determine your motivation for not organizing. Do something about it!

Realize your actions influence other family members, especially your children. Do you really want them to emulate your packrat style and live in clutter the rest of their life? Do them a favor and teach them to become organized now.

Instead of displaying everything you have at one time, rotate the items and display a few at

a time. They will be much more memorable and useful because there will be fewer items to see or use.

Keep the memories without accumulating the possessions by taking pictures, placing on CD's or creating collages of items or portions of items you want to keep.