

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Time to resolve to de-clutter the casa



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Can you believe it? A new year will be here in only three days.

It's time to write down things we would like to improve about ourselves during the next 12 months. New Year's resolutions such as losing weight, quitting smoking and curbing spending are usually at the top of the list for a lot of us. And chances are, if you're like me, there's another one that needs to be added: De-cluttering the house.

Expert organizers say we can help make 2007 a more successful year by getting rid of the things we don't use or don't want.

I know it's easier said than done. You should see my three-car garage. It's so full of garage sale finds only one car fits. And my two guest rooms? Well, let's just say there's no room at the inn. Yikes! It isn't pretty.

So, you know what I need to do - and maybe you do, too - have a garage sale! There's no doubt we'll feel lighter, even refreshed by having a sale and unloading all those things weighing us down.

I have so much stuff but I haven't had a garage sale in more than a year. I guess I'm too busy going to them.

But come January, I will lighten my load. I'm going to have a garage sale.

And after that I'm hoping to keep things from getting out of hand again. So I went to the Web in search of organizing tips. Here are a few I got from [ezinearticles.com](http://ezinearticles.com).

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### Organize garage sale finds in 2007

1. One in, one out rule: For every one thing that comes into your home, something should go out. So, buy something new, give something away. If you buy a pair of pants, give another pair to charity. Buy a new couch, get rid of the old one at your next garage sale.
2. Use it or lose it: If you haven't used something in the past six months chances are you won't, so why not get rid of it? For instance, do you have 20 tablecloths but only use one or two? Get rid of the extra ones at the next sale or donate them to charity. The same goes for clothing and everything else.
3. Borrow things: Instead of buying new items such as books, movies and DVDs, how about borrowing them from the library or renting them? That way you can take items back when you're done instead of having them collect dust.

But never fear, I will continue going to garage sales hunting down fabulous treasures. I mean, come on, I have to, I'm the Garage Sale Gal! Plus, I get most of my ideas for this column each week by going to garage sales thanks to the interesting items for sale and people selling them.

So, good luck on your New Year's resolution to make more room for new garage sale finds in 2007.

**Lynda Hammond runs the [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) Web site where you can list and look for garage sales online and read past columns. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's *Good Morning Arizona*.**