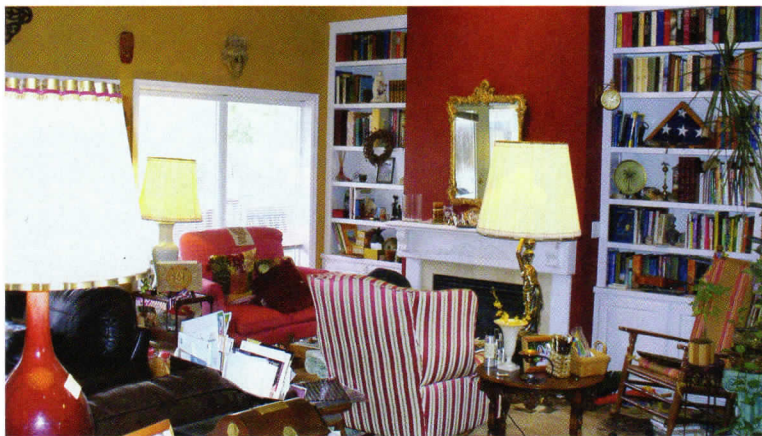


Spring clean prior to remodeling



Before any remodel can take place, rooms need to be cleared of excess items. The area in the photo at left illustrates a room where too many things have collected over the years, giving the room a haphazard appearance. The photo at right shows how nice a room can look once all the extraneous items have been removed. (Courtesy photos)

By Irene Woodworth

Did you know that spring cleaning is a prerequisite for redesigning and remodeling your home? Many people want to avoid this painful experience, but it is vital to save steps to make your home feel and look right.

The main reason spring cleaning is imperative is because you need to know what you have, what you need and what you want. If you have no idea what you want, how will you ever experience it?

Functional living environments are always intentionally designed. There can be no book written without an author. In the same way, no design can be accomplished without a designer. You need a practical plan.

Priority One – Collections must be filtered, organized and displayed with unity. A client of ours had seven different collections. She kept them hidden. Half of them were collections she never liked. She kept them for sentimental reasons. She outgrew most of them.

Priority Two – Discover what you really like! If you could only keep a third of your furnishings, which ones would you keep? I have discovered that many of my clients have unintentionally become hoarders because they don't know what to keep or give away. The whole experience becomes so overwhelming that they become emotionally paralyzed and can't do anything physically.

IRENE'S EASY TIP: I buy removable Avery round stickers in green, yellow and red. You can start in your entry or living room. When you see something you really love, stop and put a green (KEEP) sticker on it. If you aren't sure about an item, put a yellow (UNSURE) sticker on it. Maybe your yellow sticker item is more useful in a different room. If you don't like something or no longer want or need it, put a red (OUT) sticker on it.

Priority Three – Put all red sticker items out of your house. You can donate them to a thrift store, give them away to someone who wants and needs them, or have a garage sale. Sometimes joining forces with some of your friends and having a joint garage sale can make the experience more fun. The yellow sticker items need to be put together in a separate room. Keep the green sticker items right where they are. Don't forget your closets, extra storage cabinets and garage areas. You'll be surprised by how many things you actually do have.

Priority Four – Walk through your home with your iPad or

notebook and make an inventory list of the projects you want to accomplish. This may include painting, window treatment changes, new furniture and new art purchases. Then prioritize your top three projects you want to finish this spring.

Priority Five – Contact a friendly local redesigner or take my “Dish on Design” workshop, especially for the do it yourselfers. You will learn the nine basic principles for decorating your rooms in your home. Go to www.CRABoise.com/workshops.htm.

CASE STUDY: We had a young couple that needed to make a radical change in their home. They had a series of collections and possessions they had accumulated. They wanted to put their home up for sale and move to a home that would house their various belongings and give them more room for their hobbies and home office.

However, they also realized they would need to organize, purge and process the items they really wanted to make the move with them. It was an ominous task even for those experienced among us. I will never forget during one of those challenging days that you wonder if it will ever get done. My client looked at me and told me with a heavy sigh, “I wish I could wave a wand and some fairies would come and get this done for us.” I looked at her and laughed and said, “Girlfriend, guess what? We are the fairies!” I do not know where that came from, but we laughed about it and it was just what we needed to get the job done.

I am pleased to announce that we worked on her house and got it done in a few weeks. We also painted, updated and redesigned it for resale. We had three or four offers on the house and it sold. They were able to purchase their dream house and we helped them in the transition of that home, too.

Through my many years of teaching for the City of Boise Parks and Recreation Art Department I had several of my students tell me time and again, that “I gave hope to homeowners!” Hopefully, I will give you some hope that you can make the necessary changes in your home, too! ●

Irene Woodworth is known as “Idaho’s Color Lady” and is founder of Redesign Boise and The Color & Redesign Academy. She is a national redesign award winner and trainer, motivational speaker, certified interior redesigner and color expert. She has a degree in education and interior design and has taught various decorating classes throughout the U.S. She may be reached at irene@redesignboise.com. For more information visit www.redesignboise.com.