



**15 Minute Projects**

**TO SIMPLIFY  
YOUR HOME**

**with Andrea Dekker**

## PICK A ROOM.

Pick a room... any room and find 15 items in that room to trash or donate. Choose a different room tomorrow and do the same thing. By the time you work through your entire home, you'll have purged well over 100 items!

## PURGE YOUR REFRIGERATOR:

Throw out expired foods, wipe out produce drawers, take a quick inventory of the food you have left, and jot down 2 or 3 meals you can make with the leftovers.

## DECLUTTER YOUR PURSE & WALLET:

Dump the contents of your purse/bag out on the counter and ONLY put back the items you absolutely need to have with you at all times. Just think how many minutes you'll save yourself each time you DON'T need to dig through all that extra stuff in your purse, bag, wallet, etc.!

## CLEAR OUT YOUR JUNK DRAWER.

Yes, I'm confident you can complete this project in 15 minutes or less! Pull EVERYTHING out of the drawer. Wipe out the inside with a damp cloth. Throw out any trash. Remove anything that has a home somewhere else in your home. Put the remaining items back in the drawer (use drawer dividers if you have them).

## TAKE STOCK OF YOUR COFFEE MUG COLLECTION.

My guess is you use the same 1 or 2 coffee mugs every morning... right? If so, it might be time to part with the extra 10+ mugs you never use. Keep a few extra for entertaining; give the others a new home in your donation box. Purge any extra dishes, pots, pans, and bakeware if you have extra time.

## **THROW OUT LONE SOCKS.**

I know you might eventually find the pair – but for now, simplify your laundry room and just toss them all.

This quick 2-minute project will leave you feeling so much lighter!

## **BRING A TRASH BAG TO YOUR TOY ROOM.**

I'm not telling you to trash your children's favorite toys... but a few big black garbage bags might just become your best friend when it's time to declutter toys, games, books, craft supplies, and other types of kid clutter. No one will ever be able to see what's inside, and you'll be surprised how few items are actually missed!

## **FILE AND/OR SHRED ONE STACK OF PAPERS:**

Grab the closest pile of papers and take action if action is needed (pay a bill, RSVP, mark a date on the calendar) then recycle, shred, or file as necessary.

Tackle another pile tomorrow... and the next day.

## **CLEAN UP YOUR CLEANING SUPPLIES.**

Toss empty bottles or anything you don't use, combine like items to save space, and make note of any items you're running low on so you can stock up again on your next trip to the store.

## **WORK THROUGH YOUR INBOX:**

Spend 15 minutes trashing or unsubscribing from junk emails. Follow up on emails that require your response. File emails you want to save for later.

You might want to set the timer for this one – just so you don't lose focus.

## TOSS MISMATCHED FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS.

Do you have a container without a lid... or a lid without a container? Take 15 minutes to go through your stash of food storage containers and toss anything that is stained, cracked, melted, or missing its mate. This is also a great time to purge water bottles and cups with missing lids, straws, tops, etc.

## EVALUATE YOUR SEASONAL CLOTHING.

Can you purge any coats, boots, gloves, hats, swimsuits, rain boots, sunglasses, etc.? These items often "miss the cut" when we declutter our closets, so it's helpful to set aside a few minutes to weed through these special items.

## RECYCLE MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS.

Free up space on your bookshelves by recycling outdated magazines and newspapers... seriously, it's amazing how much space these things take up!

## DO A MAIN FLOOR MAD-DASH.

Run (literally) through your main living areas and do the following: fluff pillows, fold throw blankets, compile papers, collect trash, put dishes in the dishwasher or sink, push chairs up to the table, return books and toys to their homes, and declutter any other surface before your 15 minutes is up (yes, I'd suggest using a timer). I do this at least 2 times every day. It's amazing the difference it makes!

## LOAD UP YOUR CAR WITH DONATIONS.

Gather any and all items to donate and physically move them out of your house. Put them in the trunk of your car so they are ready to go the next time you pass a donation drop-off center (and so you're not tempted to bring them back inside!)