

10-MINUTE ORGANIZER

## GIVE FOOTWEAR CLUTTER THE BOOT

Kick your family's shoe pile into shape in a few easy steps.

BY LESLIE CORONA



**TO BUY:** Costway 3-Tier Bamboo Shoe Bench, \$100; [overstock.com](https://www.overstock.com).

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The mess of shoes in your entryway may give the casual observer the impression that dozens of people live in your home—not just a single family. A shoes-off policy is a good way to keep floors clean, but no one wants a puddle of flats and sneakers by the door.

### PARE DOWN AND PUT AWAY

**The first step to organizing is purging.** Haul out *all* of your family's shoes, sort them by person, and decide how many pairs everyone really needs. To help whittle down your pile, ask, "Are these comfy? Do they still go with my overall style?" Donate any that don't pass muster. Have your kids try on every single pair of shoes, sneakers, and cleats, then donate the ones that are too small. You can drop off unwanted pairs at DSW stores, and some Dress for Success locations take work shoes. Zappos accepts boxes of up to 50 pounds and even pays for shipping.

**Stow off-season keepers out of sight** in boxes in a closet, in the basement, or under the bed. If you have leather shoes, put them in ventilated under-bed boxes or bags to keep mildew at bay. No matter what material shoes are made of, clean them before putting them away, and place them toe to heel to maximize space. You can also stuff them with white tissue paper to help hold their shape.

### MAINTAIN WITHOUT A MOUNTAIN

**Prevent the creep of shoe clutter by the entry.** Each family member should aim to have no more than two pairs out—one by the door, another in a closet or basket.

**If you already have a console or entry table, place a few storage baskets underneath.** Go for roomy seagrass ones with handles, like the Ellery Belly Basket (\$20; worldmarket.com). Label each basket by family member.

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**Round out your shoe supplies with a boot tray,** since you don't want wet shoes on a shelf or in a basket, and boots often won't fit there anyway.

**Invest in a shoe bench—**a real game changer that provides storage as well as a place to sit as you tie or untie. Open shelves let you easily see—and grab or put away—pairs. Avoid options with small cubbies: If it's annoying to jam in shoes, your family won't stick to the habit.

**For narrow entryways, look for something with a thinner profile,** like Ikea's wall-mounted shoe cabinet. Each family member can have their own slot.

### NEATEN UP CLEATS

**Stinky, muddy stuff can air out in the garage.** Use a tiered shoe rack and assign each jock in the family a shelf for their footwear.



### UNDERBED STORAGE

Stow seasonal shoes in this 16-Compartment Organizer (\$22; containerstore.com). Its clear cover lets you spot pairs ASAP.



### ENTRY BENCH

You can sit, you can store shoes, you can slide sandals, flip-flops, and low-profile sneakers beneath it (Safavieh Cricket Bench, \$226; decormarket.com).



### WALL-MOUNTED ORGANIZER

The nine-inch-deep Hemnes Shoe Cabinet (\$130; ikea-usa.com) holds at least eight pairs and doubles as a drop zone for keys and mail.