



Happily Better After Room Redesign & Home Staging

Anyone can have the home of their dreams - sometimes it just takes a little magic!



5 Guidelines for Donating Unwanted Items

Donating items you no longer need or use is a terrific way to reduce clutter in your home and help those in need. But before you start filling up bags and boxes to take to your favorite charity, there are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- 1. Condition.** While the items are expected to be used, they should not be stained, torn, broken, or otherwise in poor repair. A few light scratches, chips or pulled threads aren't a big deal, but if you can repair or minimize them, all the better.
- 2. Obsolescence.** The old 8-track player you found in the garage may still work, but since it's an obsolete technology, there isn't much demand for it. Those items are often best discarded. Same goes for the leisure suit with giant lapels and contrast piping.
- 3. Send items where they'll do the most good.** Churches and other organizations have a steady need for clothes, furniture, and household goods, but a set of skis or golf clubs, not so much. It's worth it to do a little research and find out what types of items the organization really wants and can use before you show up with your donation.
- 4. Value.** If you have brand-name or high-value items in good condition, you may be better off selling them on eBay or Craigslist and donating the proceeds instead. Charities can always use monetary donations.
- 5. Keep track of what you donate.** Donations to charitable organizations are often tax-deductible, so make a list for your tax records. You only need to note basic details, like "five pairs of kids' jeans," "three-seat sofa," or "turntable and two speakers." Some tax-preparation software will even calculate the value of each item so you'll know exactly how much you can deduct.



Need help deciding what to keep, store, donate, or discard? Contact Happily Better After at **609.880.9682** or info@happilybetterafter.com – we'll be glad to help you get it all sorted out!

Happily Better After works with people who struggle with the seemingly overwhelming task of transforming their homes. They desperately want to create a home that is attractive, comfortable, and organized, whether they plan to sell or stay. Happily Better After is different from other home makeover companies because we make sure our clients are at ease with the changes taking place, so they can get unstuck and move on with their lives.