

# 2026 Clean With Me Sewing Room De-Clutter





# 2026 Clean With Me!

## Sewing Room Declutter and Organization Series

Join me on YouTube for my Clean With me Video Series!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiv51fzKv8b86iFqLulqoakl-ovkHr8Yf>

**Remember: Don't put it down, put it away!**

**START HERE:** Choose a space for donate and trash items. You'll be adding to this spot over the next few days so plastic bins and cardboard boxes are great for these items! Print this checklist and tackle one small category each day. Don't forget to take BEFORE and AFTER photos, and enjoy a sewing space that feels calm and inspiring.

### Sewing Room Organization Videos:

- \* Fabric Storage: <https://youtu.be/iTwAwV5efeM?si=XY5o4-hXjb4ta9Kt>
- \* Scrap Storage: <https://youtu.be/Od4pnTP2B4Y?si=CD8HEGkVEtiJj35S>
- \* Sewing Room Tour including links for everything in my sewing room:  
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiv51fzKv8b8kPITotQg8qQZBQirtTMaL&si=ApZIRTxuBHImWk-5>

**Donation Ideas:** Local Quilt Guilds, 4-H Groups, Craft Thrift Stores, and Local Libraries are great places to donate your unwanted items!

**Motivation Tips:** Set a timer to help you stay motivated. Small actions each day will add up! This list is just a guide. If you're on a roll, you can move on to another section you don't have to spread it out over 10 days. I tend to get the "cleaning bug" and do it all in a day! And don't forget to take BEFORE and AFTER photos to help motivate you!

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## Day 1: Take out the Trash!

- ☐ Remove items that don't belong in the sewing room (trash, shoes, cups/plates, keys, etc.).
- ☐ Put things away, if it doesn't have a spot, set it aside for later.
- ☐ Product Packaging: I know it's hard, but you don't need it. Recycle boxes, wrapping, bags, etc.
- ☐ If you have fabric scraps or yardage on your work area, put them away. If you aren't sure about something, sort it into 2 piles: Usable or Trash.

### Tips and Now What:

Find a "home" for any items set aside. If there isn't room, ask yourself if you can live without it. If you can't, make a spot for it. If you can live without it, add it to the donate pile. If you have scraps that are for "trash" toss them or donate them to a quilt guild. If you have usable scraps, consider selling them on Instagram/Facebook as scrap bags by weight. It's a great way to help someone else and earn a little back. Tip: I "take out the trash" regularly as my room tends to collect things!

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## Day 2: Fabric Stash - Yardage

- ☐ Sort fabric by type, color, or collection
- ☐ Ask yourself: "Can I live without this?" (*set anything you can live without aside*).
- ☐ Refold and store "to keep" fabric neatly so it's visible and easy to reach.

### Tips and Now What:

I like to store my yardage separately from my smaller pre-cuts. It's easy for me to see what I can use for backings and borders. Fold yardage so it's all a similar size. I store my yardage on Comic Book Boards then in my Ikea shelving unit. Clear plastic bins are also great for storing yardage by type or color. This makes them easy to see what I have, easy to pull out, and easy to put away. It also keeps you from purchasing duplicates! Donate anything you've set aside.



## Day 3: Fabric Stash - FQs, Small Cuts and Pre-cuts

- ☐ Sort fabric by color or collection/designer
- ☐ Ask yourself: "Can I live without this?" (*set anything you can live without aside*).
- ☐ Refold and store "to keep" fabric neatly so it's visible and easy to reach.

### ***Tips and Now What:***

I like to store my smaller cuts in 10 x 13 white plastic bins from Target. Clear bins are also a great option. Fold your fabric so they are all a similar size. Then sort into baskets by either color, designer, or whatever makes the most sense for you. The bins make your fabric easy to see, use, and put away! I store my bins on Ikea Kallax units, you can check out my Sewing Room Tour for more details!

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## Day 4: Fabric Stash - Scraps

- ☐ Sort scraps by color and size (*I also sort by holiday and non-holiday*).
- ☐ Set aside scraps to donate.
- ☐ Toss anything unusable (*see tips below*).
- ☐ Organize scraps you keep into colored bins.

### ***Tips and Now What:***

I like to store my scraps by color. I also have a separate bin for holiday fabrics. Ideally, I try not to keep anything smaller than 2-1/2" square. Another tip to keep this area manageable is to cut usable scraps from a project as soon as you're done with it. I cut squares that are: 2-1/2", 3-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2" and 6-1/2". If I have longer pieces leftover I'll cut them in strips of those widths as well. Having common sizes makes it more likely you'll pull from your stash! Add anything you are letting go of to your "donate" pile. Don't forget to ask a quilt guild if they can use them. We had a lady who used them as stuffing for dog beds.

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## Day 5: Patterns, Books, and Magazines

- ☐ Sort through paper patterns to keep or donate.
- ☐ Sort through digital PDF downloads! Make folders on your computer to organize your PDF downloads by season or type
- ☐ Store patterns to keep in binders with dividers (seasonal, type, alphabetically, etc.)
- ☐ Tear out magazine pages you love, add to your binders, recycle the rest

### ***Tips and Now What:***

I keep paper patterns and magazine pages in page protectors in a binder. I also have dividers for seasons and special techniques like EPP and Foundation Paper patterns. After that, they're sorted alphabetically. For any items set aside today: donate to friends, quilt guilds, 4-H clubs, or your local library. Recycle everything else.

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## Day 6: Works in Progress (WIPs & UFOs)

- ☐ Pull out all unfinished projects (WIPs and UFOs)
- ☐ Pull out any unstarted projects, even if they're new purchases!
- ☐ Decide what you will realistically finish, put anything you don't love anymore in a donate pile.
- ☐ Put anything you choose to keep away. Labeled plastic artbins are a great way to organize and store a project.

### ***Now What:***

Pass along projects to friends or quilt guilds. I know it's hard, but even if you purchased a new project and have since changed your mind, it's okay to let it go. Consider selling it to a friend or through social media. And don't forget 4-H clubs are usually happy to take donations for their members!



## Day 7: Notions, Tools, and Thread

- ☐ Sort rulers, scissors, rotary cutters, pens, marking tools, etc. (*set aside any broken or unused items*).
- ☐ Sort buttons, zippers, trims, ribbons, etc. (*set aside any items to donate or toss*).
- ☐ Gather all thread in one place and test old thread for strength, toss thread that is dusty, brittle, or weak.
- ☐ Set aside duplicates and anything broken (*if possible fix broken items*).
- ☐ Only keep favorites items and things you use regularly.

### ***Tips and Now What:***

I store things like buttons in glass jars. Not only is it cute decor, but it's easy for me to see, and most importantly, easy to put away! Trims and ribbons are stored on a shelf or in a scrap bag. I store zippers by color on safety pins that hang from my peg board. Store thread & bobbins (same color together) in air-tight containers or on a thread spool organizer. Donate anything unwanted and toss or fix anything broken.

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## Day 8: Batting and Interfacing

- ☐ Gather all batting and interfacing scraps, sort and label by type.
- ☐ Keep usable sizes for future projects, toss or donate the rest.

### ***Tips and Now What:***

I store my batting scraps in a bin in my Ikea Kallax unit. It's out of sight but easy to reach. I tend to keep anything over 10" square. That said, you can sew together several pieces using a zig-zag stitch to create a larger piece for a small quilt or bag project! So keep whatever works best for you. Scraps are also great for small projects like bags, handles, and little zipper pouches. I store interfacing in a cute basket, they are rolled up in a tube with a rubber band. Don't forget to ask a quilt guild if they can use them. Make "Franken-Batting" out of larger scraps!

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## Day 9: Sewing Machines, Irons, and Cutting Mats

- ☐ Go through your cutting mats. Set aside any you can live without. Clean the "keepers".
- ☐ Clean/service irons
- ☐ Clean or schedule service for sewing machines
- ☐ Sort any duplicate items to donate, gift, or sell. If possible, fix anything broken, toss the rest

### ***Tips and Now What:***

Self-service or schedule maintenance for your machine. I also clean it out after each large project. Clean your iron faceplate, replace water if needed, and wipe it down. Wipe off your main cutting mat and scrape it with a plastic scraper if you have one to reduce cut marks. Facebook marketplace is a great place to sell used machines that you no longer need. Don't forget to ask a local quilt guild, library, or 4H club if they're interested in anything unwanted.

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## Day 10: Reset and Rest!

- ☐ Clear and wipe down flat surfaces.
- ☐ Do an overall clean of your space: Sweep, vacuum, dust, mop, etc.
- ☐ Remove any lingering items that didn't make the cut.
- ☐ Take an AFTER picture to motivate you to keep your space tidy.

### ***Now What:***

Remember my motto: "Don't set it down, put it away"! Now that everything has a place, it will be easy to keep your space clutter free so you can actually "work" in it. For any items set aside over the last few days, toss anything unusable in the trash pile, and take all of your donation items to their designated place!

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✨ You did it! Enjoy your refreshed sewing space. ✨