

# Things to DO Before 2008 Rolls Around!

## START THE NEW YEAR WITH A CLEAN REFRIGERATOR!



- Take all items from refrigerator + freezer — check expirations + freshness + discard what you need to.
- Remove/+ or clean all shelves + drawers from refrigerator + wash them thoroughly. Start with the top shelf, + work your way down.
- Place a new open box of baking soda in fridge after you have finished cleaning to control odors. Don't forget the outside surfaces + floor level where all those dust bunnies like to congregate.
- Remember: Everything should have a home — even things in your refrigerator — so assign specific areas for different food items. This will make it SO much easier to find anything at any given time
- Group similar food items together. Assign one shelf of your refrigerator to beverages — milk, juices, soda, etc — for easy access + visibility. Organize by size — placing taller cartons, bottles, etc towards the back.

## START THE NEW YEAR WITH A CLEAN REFRIGERATOR! (CONT'D)

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# PURGE THOSE MAGAZINES, ETC



Go through all those magazines, catalogues, newsletters, newspapers, etc from 2006 + beyond !! If you haven't already looked at or read these, chances are that you probably are not going to in 2008 — so just let them go !!! The public library bookstore is always happy to receive periodicals + magazines. Remember with catalogues — you are bound to receive yet another one that will be even more current than the ones you have been holding on to !

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



- January 1 (or whenever you take down all those Xmas decorations !!!)
- First of all — crank up the Christmas music one last time, have a plate of those yummy, Christmas cookies on hand + some eggnog, so instead of this job being a chore, you can really enjoy these last moments of the Christmas season
- Before you take down your decorations — take photos so you will be able to easily remember the way you set up your decorations as a reference for next year.
- Make a list as you go along of any items that need replacing, or that you would like to buy for next Christmas
- Discard any old, broken or unused decorations + ornaments. Only keep what you really love + get enjoyment from.
- Purchase plastic storage boxes in appropriate sizes to store all your decorations if you don't have any already. There is a vast assortment available in all shapes + sizes.

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS (CONT'D)

- Divided storage boxes for Christmas tree ornaments are great, + will minimize breakages of your precious ornaments.
- I like to store all of my Christmas decorations in green plastic storage containers, as they are then easy to identify when its time to get them all down again. Store all decorations, etc by room. — i.e. Dining room, Kitchen, etc . Label all boxes.
- Use wreath boxes for wreaths — this will avoid damage to them, + help to maintain their shape. An alternative is to place the wreath in a heavy-duty plastic bag, + hang it in your storage area.
- There are several good ways to store Christmas lights. You can store each string of lights in individual Ziploc storage bags to avoid tangling, or cut a heavy piece of cardboard into a square or rectangular shape. Cut a slit on one side + wind the light string around the cardboard, threading the end back through the slit. It's also a good idea to write on what you're storing them in, thereby identifying where they will be placed next year — i.e. Left railing in family room

**NOW THAT WASN'T TOO HARD WAS IT? AND JUST THINK  
OF HOW ORGANIZED YOU WILL BE FOR NEXT YEAR**