

# Introduction:

## Let's Organize Just Enough

If you're a persnickety perfectionist, then you'd better drop this book and run, because some of the ideas here will give you a heart attack. On the other hand, if you're looking for super-easy ways to organize your life, you're in the right place. *How to Cheat at Organizing* is about creating enough order that you'll be happy with your environment—but taking shortcuts every chance you get.

If you have any doubts about this approach, you will want to know this revealing statistic: Organizing experts say that if a task takes you 10 hours to complete, you get 90 percent of it done *in the first 5 hours*. The second 5 hours are devoted to futzing with the spit-and-polish details. Many people fail at organizing their homes because 100 percent perfection is too intimidating a goal. So why not shoot for getting 90 percent organized? Compared to utter chaos, that's still pretty darned good—and you get there in half the time!

How exactly do you cheat at organizing? It means setting aside myths, misconceptions, and unreasonable traditions. It means learning clever tricks and shortcuts. It means being brave enough to walk away from some

activities that are no longer relevant to your life. It means snapping up innovative products and technology that save you time and money. And it means getting help from family, friends, and professionals. *How to Cheat at Organizing* is jam-packed with the details you need in order to succeed with these tactics.

In this book you will learn some radical ways to simplify your life—ignoring supermarket coupons, managing your finances without a budget, and giving up your formal living room, for instance. You'll also find out about the world's simplest—and highly effective—weight loss diet; how to stock your home with hard-working furniture; how to whip a wanton clothes closet into shape; how to slash your grocery shopping time and organize your kitchen; how to dig out from under a mountain of e-mail; and how to get your roasting turkey to page you when it's done to perfection. And because we enjoy a good laugh along with good advice, you'll hear about the guy who snacks on baby food, about the company that sends single-serving condiments into space, and about the cure for an Unwanted Gift Headache (UGH)...