



Get Organized: Bedside Bliss



PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDELL T. WEBBER; STYLING BY JEN EVERETT

Sweet Dreams: Top your nightstand with things that calm the senses, such as fresh flowers and scented candles. Anything that causes stress, like your BlackBerry or checkbook, doesn't belong here. ● Use a jewelry holder to keep earrings and rings from rolling onto the floor. ● Keep a bottle or carafe of water on hand. ● Place a magazine caddy by the bed for extra storage. ● Free up more space by using wall-mounted lighting.

Is your nightstand a nightmare? If it's piled high with bills to pay and books to read, no wonder you toss and turn in bed. But with organizer Ann Sullivan's system, you'll transform this space into an oasis of order. Ah, rest easy!

Assess

In your journal, make a list of all the things you do in the bedroom. You want this space to be a retreat, so cross off any activities that can be done elsewhere, such as folding the laundry or balancing the checkbook. Next, jot down all the things you get up to retrieve after you've already slipped under the sheets, such as tissues and hand lotion.

Sort

Dump everything from the nightstand onto the bed. Create two piles: "Keep" and "Put Elsewhere." Cut down on the clutter by finding new homes for knickknacks and other nonessentials, and hang any family photos on the wall where you can see them better.

Activate

If your nightstand has a drawer, use it to store breakable items such as eyeglasses. Load everything from your "Keep" pile into or onto the nightstand. Be sure these items coincide with your revised list of activities, and make space for those items you often get out of bed to fetch.

Preserve

Limit yourself to one magazine or book and store the excess in a caddy on the floor. Take a minute in the morning to put the hand lotion back in the drawer. Each month, check that things like business cards, mail and clothing receipts haven't accumulated in your newly serene space.

—Edited by Teresa Palagano