



## Get Organized: Entryway Answers

PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDELL WEBBER; STYLING BY HOUSE STYLE; BENCH FROM MOMA DESIGN; SHELF FROM TARGET; UMBRELLAS FROM CROCODILE CREEK; SEE BUYER'S GUIDE FOR RETAIL INFORMATION.



**Make Sense of the Entrance:** A bench with built-in cubbies is the perfect place to park backpacks, workbags and sports gear. ● Place stainless-steel cookie sheets underneath for muddy boots, soggy shoes. ● Assign each family member a color-coded basket or crate to stash easy-to-misplace items like sunglasses, cell phones, hats and mittens. ● Minimize morning mix-ups by applying the color-coding system to key rings as well.

This school year, transform your entryway from a dumping ground for everyone's junk to an efficient launch pad. You'll bring order to the foyer—and peace to your mornings—with this “ASAP” approach created by organizing pro Ann Sullivan.

### Assess

Think about the activities that happen here, like getting coats on, collecting mail and packing up for work or school. Do you have a place to park things that regularly come in and go out of this area?

### Sort

If your entry has morphed into a substitute attic for things like rusty ice skates and old magazines, start purging. Separate items into four boxes labeled “Put Elsewhere,” “Give Away,” “Keep” and “Toss.” “The key is not to get sentimental,” says Sullivan. “If one mitten's missing, get rid of the other.”

### Activate

Go through your “Keep” box and designate a place for each item—for instance, backpacks and briefcases under the bench, mail in the letter bin. Be sure you're stashing things where they make the most sense. If keys are the last thing you grab as you leave, create a drop-off spot close to the door where you can hang them as soon as you come in.

### Preserve

To avoid accumulating clutter, swap out clothing, accessories and sports gear by season. Then take five minutes each evening to put stuff back where it belongs—and encourage your kids to do the same—so everyone has a smooth liftoff in the morning,” says Sullivan.

—Edited by Teresa Palagano