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[Get it Together! Keep it Together! Let Linda Help!](#)

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Linda's Organizing Tip for November 2007:

You've Got Junk Mail!!!

When you come home after a hard day, the last thing you want to see is a pile of junk mail waiting to be sorted. Many people will stack the current day's pile on the previous day's pile and postpone this arduous task to a more conducive time (like never) and the stacks quickly multiply. Important mail (letters, bills) can get lost in this overwhelming sea of paper clutter.

According to these statistics posted on the New American Dream website (www.newdream.org), U.S. companies sent 35 billion pieces of direct postal mail in 1980, 64 billion pieces in 1990, 90 billion pieces in 2000, and 100 billion pieces in 2005. That's more than 300 pieces of bulk mail for every man, woman, and child! (U.S. Postal Service). In 2005, 5.8 million tons of catalogs and other direct mailings ended up in the U.S. municipal solid waste stream – enough to fill over 450,000 garbage trucks. Parked bumper to bumper these garbage trucks would extend from Atlanta to Albuquerque. Less than 36% of this ad mail was recycled. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

What can you do? Here are a few simple steps to take to reduce clutter in your mailbox and on your counter! Doing even one will make a difference!

1. Contact the [Direct Marketing Association](#), and register for the Mail Preference Service. Your name will be placed in a delete file, and you should notice a decrease in junk mail about three months after you register.
2. Register at www.OptOutPrescreen.com; the official website for the Consumer Credit Reporting Industry to accept and process requests from consumers to Opt In or Opt Out of firm offers of credit and insurance, or call 1-888-5OptOut (1-888-567-8688) to opt-out of these offers.
3. To limit unsolicited phone calls to a home or cell number, register for the [National Do Not Call Registry](#) at 1-888-382-1222.

4. Call the customer service department of individual companies that send you junk mail. Ask to be removed from the company's mailing list. Have the mailing label with you when you call so you can relay exact names and codes from the label.
5. Tell mail-order companies from which you regularly order products not to give or sell your name to other companies. Do the same for any religious, political, professional and charitable organizations that you may contribute to, as well as for credit card companies, banks, schools and utility companies.
6. Avoid sending in warranty registration cards. You'll still be covered by the warranty, but the company won't use it as an invitation to send you more information on its products.
7. Unsubscribe to any e-mail services that are sending you things you do not want. You may also register your e-mail addresses at the Direct Marketing Association [E-mail Preference Service](#).

I hope these suggestions are useful to you in your quest to reduce unwanted solicitations of all sorts. I have implemented the ideas myself, and have found I have much less paper clutter. Be patient, it takes a few months to see a difference. Good luck!!

And Happy Thanksgiving!

If you need help with organizing, simply call Linda.

***These tips are for sharing!
Please forward to others interested in organizing ideas.***

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