

INSIDERS' GUIDE HOME

of cotton ball and dipped in remover, then follow with a topcoat.

- **Be diligent.** Dark colors call attention to ragged cuticles, so moisturize yours daily with a cuticle cream or oil. Reapplying topcoat every four days will also help protect your manicure. To remove polish, saturate a cotton ball with nonacetone remover and press it on the cuticle area for three seconds, then wipe toward the end of the nail. Avoid using a circular motion—straight up and down is less messy.

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR ACCESSORIES

An Interview With Linda Rothschild

Rothschild is the founder of Cross It Off Your List, a personal-organizing service based in New York City.

Even the most impeccably dressed women may still toss their jewelry, scarves, and sunglasses into one jumbled drawer. But organizing all that chaos will not only save you time when you're putting together an outfit; you'll also find that you wear your best pieces more often.

- **Whittle down.** The first step is identifying the accessories you no longer wear. If you're over your scarf phase or haven't worn those sunglasses for a year, get rid of them. Give the items to a thrift store or a friend, or sell them on eBay—someone, somewhere will love them. If you have accessories that you rarely wear but can't bear to give away (heirlooms or designer pieces), store them in a clear, labeled container in your closet.

- **Plan it out.** Sort what you have left (chunky necklaces in one pile, bangles in another, belts by color, etc.) and note the number of groups. Then decide on a drawer for your accessories and measure its length, width, and depth, keeping in mind that a deep drawer will allow for stackable containers.

- **Go shopping.** Once you know what you're working with, check out containers at storables.com, organize.com, or the Container Store. While you don't need a separate receptacle for every category of accessory, you will need dividers of some sort. All these stores



Clear things up: Transparent containers allow you to see the contents.

carry a variety of large organizers with different-size nooks (perfect for jewelry), and you can buy smaller containers for sunglasses, scarves, and belts. I like clear ones, which allow you to see everything at a glance without digging around.

- **Keep it up.** Now that your drawer is organized, try to put your accessories back in their designated place when you

get undressed at night. Believe me, it's easier to spend 30 seconds a day doing this than to wait until the drawer is a huge mess and you have to do a total overhaul. And once every season, go through the drawer and weed out any accessories you no longer wear so you can make sure that your favorite things are always front and center.



Making the List

Rory Tahari's new book, *Lists for Life* (Simon Spotlight Entertainment), really does span from the cradle (what to buy before having a baby) to the grave (planning a funeral).

How did you come up with such comprehensive lists? "I seem to have gone through life's big moments earlier than most of my peers. Marriage, pregnancy, big moves—I didn't have anyone I could call for advice, so I just did tons of research. And since I always seem to learn things the hard way, I wanted to share this knowledge so at least others could benefit. The book grew out of emails I sent my friends over the years."

What was one of the harder lessons? "Never give out the direct number of a hospital room. I

broke my back in a riding accident two years ago, and I swear the phone rang every two minutes."

Have you always been a list maker? Ever since I was little. My sleepaway camp sent a packing list every year, but I insisted on drawing up my own because mine was much more comprehensive.

Do you still make packing lists? I recently went on a last-minute trip with my husband and didn't make one. When I got there and started unpacking, Elie could hear me laughing and shouted, "What's so funny?" from the next room. I hadn't packed a single bottom for the entire week, except for the jeans I was wearing.

—SARAH VAN BOVEN

LISTS FOR LIFE

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO GETTING ORGANIZED AND TACKLING TOUGH TO-DO'S



RORY TAHARI