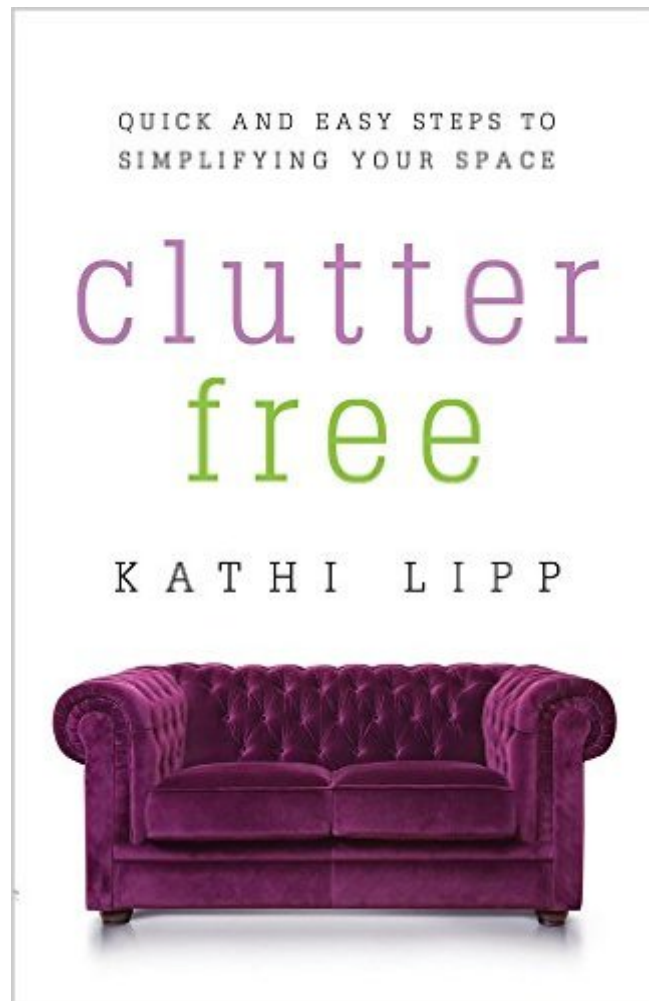


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# Clutter Free: Quick And Easy Steps To Simplifying Your Space



## Synopsis

If you've ever wished you could clear out your clutter, simplify your space, and take back your life, Kathi Lipp's new book has just the solutions you need. Building off the success of her *The Get Yourself Organized Project*, this book will provide even more ideas for getting your life and your stuff under control. Do any of these descriptions apply to you? You bought a box of cereal at the store, and then discovered you have several boxes at home that are already past the "best by" date. You bought a book and put it on your nightstand (right on top of ten others you've bought recently), but you have yet to open it. You keep hundreds of DVDs around even though you watch everything online now and aren't really sure where the remote for the DVD player is. You spend valuable time moving your piles around the house, but you can never find that piece of paper when you need it. Your house doesn't make you happy when you step into it. As you try out the many easy, doable solutions that helped Kathi win her battle with clutter, you'll begin to understand why you hold on to the things you do, eliminate what's crowding out real life, and make room for the life of true abundance God wants for you.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Harvest House Publishers (January 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0736959130

ISBN-13: 978-0736959131

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (132 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #33,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Cleaning, Caretaking & Relocating](#) #259 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Women's Issues](#) #7325 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality](#)

## Customer Reviews

Clutter. We all have it and know we should do something about it. Why don't we? That is the first topic Lipp covers in this book. She helps us understand the why of clutter. She explores why we are hesitant to get rid of stuff. Reasons include fear, guilt, not wanting to admit defeat "and those are just a few. She also writes about why we buy and the longing we have that cannot be fulfilled by

stuff. She helps us when we need to deal with other people's stuff and avoid mistakes. Her philosophy includes making room for what's really important. She relates our accumulation of clutter to the state of our spirit. Clutter leads to a lack of peace and to stress. She shares the advantages of neighborhood sharing and not owning everything ourselves. Yes, she does finally give us her strategy for clutter management and the three question test. Her plan is a little different in that it concentrates on what we want to keep. (She has included her three-box, two-bag system from a previous book in an Appendix.) She also includes a clothing strategy on how to get to a minimum yet useful wardrobe. She provides a strategy for paper clutter in an Appendix. She finally reminds us that the de-cluttering process is not simply to get rid of stuff but to uncover and appreciate the treasures we have, making room for the best things in our life. The important part of this book is the reasons we have clutter. If we don't address those reasons, even though we de-clutter once, it will be back. Reading this book will hurt but we'll be better for it. Reading the reasons why we buy and why we keep stuff was very insightful. If you are ready to be intentional about your stuff, read this book. You will not only receive a good strategy to manage clutter, you'll find out why you've accumulated all that stuff in the first place. I highly recommend this book.

Food for thought: "The easiest time to say no to clutter is at the store." "Everything I own must earn the right to be there." "I received a complimentary galley of this book from the publisher for the purpose of an independent and honest review."

I've been a fan/follower of Kathi Lipp ever since I attended my first MOPS conference 6+ years ago. She's so relatable, both as an author and as a speaker, that you feel like you've been best friends forever, and you could just invite her right into your living room for a chat. Well, I mean, you could if your living room didn't constantly look like a bomb just went off. But since it does, well, you won't be inviting ANYONE over any time soon, now will you? Not that I'd know anything about that. At last year's conference, I laughed and cried through her workshop on organization and then picked up a copy of her then-most-recent book, "The Get Yourself Organized Project", and I loved it so much that I absolutely jumped at the chance to get a preview copy of "Clutter Free". Both books are among the best organization books I have ever read. Because Kathi GETS it. She's not some neat-freak organization guru issuing proclamations from her perfectly-organized office in her magazine-cover-worthy home, telling us mere mortals that if we would only do X and maybe Y, our homes would stay clean, and we would be more worthy as human beings. No, Kathi has struggled with clutter and organization, and she understands what it's like to be the mother of young kids and trying to keep the clutter from consuming the house and absorbing the children. She's tried and

failed at the methods the "experts" recommend, and then she regrouped and figured out that, even if she bought a cute shoe cabinet to go behind the couch, her family's shoes were still going to end up in a pile by the door until she found a system that would allow the shoes to be organized by the door. And she states repeatedly in her books that a lack of organization does NOT mean we are lazy, does NOT make us less worthy, does NOT make us less lovable. It just means that our brains aren't naturally wired to organize, and we're going to need to learn how to do it the hard way, making mistakes and learning lessons as we go. "The Get Yourself Organized Project" was excellent and dealt a lot with the "how" of decluttering. "Clutter Free" deals more with the "why". Why do we accumulate clutter? Why is it so hard to get rid of it? Why is it so much easier to organize OTHER people's homes instead of our own? And how can we finally start to let go of all of the \*stuff\* that sometimes seems so important? And at the end is a great index with some of the best resources from "The Get Yourself Organized Project", which gives enough of the "how" to make "Clutter Free" a stand-alone book. I'm not going to lie -- being used to Kathi's usual funny, conversational style, and after reading "The Get Yourself Organized Project", I found the first few chapters of "Clutter Free" just a little dry compared to most of her other books. But that's okay because the subject matter in this one is less funny overall. But around chapter 4, Kathi started throwing in cute, funny stories here and there about things that had happened to her or to a friend, and I started chuckling to myself while also internalizing many of the very important points she made. Most importantly, the book inspired me to start really examining all the stuff around me and to start making some tough decisions about what really deserves a place in my home and in my life. I plan to participate in Kathi's 21 Day Clutter Free Challenge that starts in a few days, and I'm taking very seriously her challenge in the book to get rid of 2000 things this year. I've actually been keeping track, and I've already gotten rid of over 300 things, just in the last few days! Overall, I think this book is a great resource for understanding the psychology behind why we keep clutter, and a great tool for helping us let go of it. I'm definitely feeling motivated to keep my momentum going and get rid of more stuff!

There are a lot of resources available on clutter. I've skimmed some, read some and left it at that. Kathi Lipp's book Clutter Free is a well written handbook on clutter, not just to address your current state of clutter, but to address the issues behind WHY you have clutter. I have found the techniques and insight in this book to be life-changing. If you are a tub-buying stasher, you may want to avoid this book. It will challenge your tub buying stashing efforts in a BIG way - i.e. stop buying tubs! By the time I reached Chapter 6, I thought Kathi Lipp had some sort of secret access to the thought processes of my mind and shopping experiences. The book is 25 chapters long with three

worthwhile appendices. The first appendix provides you information you need to get started with Kathi's Three-Box, Two-Bag System. No, you are not going out to buy new tubs for this system!!! Although I actually found I had some empty ones that work nicely for the process. I'm an easily distracted individual when I'm cleaning an area. The three-box, two-bag system helps me to stay focused and in the same location as my clutter I'm attempting to clear. Appendix 2 helps you address paperwork clutter and Appendix 3 helps you learn to pack for vacation and business trips without more luggage than you can carry, pull, load and check at the airport. The 25 chapters will help you identify how much your clutter is costing you, why you buy the things you buy, why you keep the things you keep and approaches to get rid of stuff. I've recommended this book to many friends. I don't plan on giving up my copy anytime soon. If you are ready for a life-changing read - order this book today, it may save you from multiple more costly purchases later. I received this book for free in exchange for this review.

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