

The Organized Man

The Mans Guide to an Organized Life

Note: this is only a small sample of this EBook.

by Hans D. Hallanger

www.organized-way.com

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About This Book

You do not have to live in an unorganized, chaotic way. You do not have to struggle with mountains of stuff and no free time. You do not have to spend your entire life doing things you do not want to do, or spend time with people you do not like. It is your life and there is a better way. It is the organized way.

Getting organized and staying organized is a mindset. Getting organized involves taking complicated things and making them simple. It is thinking enough about what you do and finding ways to eliminate them or do those things faster. It is making choices in how you live and doing things to make your life easier. Once you are organized you will see how simple and elegant life can be.

The time you spend to get better organized, will be time well spent. Your surroundings will be uncluttered and orderly. You will get out of bad relationships. You will avoid problems. You will not find yourself in difficult or frustrating situations. You will have more free time to do what you want to do.

The best part of the advice in this book and on my website, www.organized-way.com is that using these ideas is not that hard to do once you understand how to do them. You do not have to master difficult skills and acquire specialized knowledge. It does not cost that much, for the most part these ideas are free or close to it. The benefit to working on getting organized is that the time you acquire will be huge.

That is what this book provides, time.

Living Room

I like to have my living room set up for my own comfort and convenience rather than for looks or for the occasional guest. This all starts with my chair. Right now I have a comfortable high backed chair. I am thinking about eventually getting a recliner. My chair is set up close to the TV and is backed up against a window wall.

For all the years of my marriage I never had a comfortable chair close to the TV. I just hate watching TV from too far away. You have to have the volume way up and then squint to see the screen.

Now, have it set up just right. I have a box with a folded or rolled up throw blanket immediately to my right so that I just reach down and grab the throw blanket. I have a couch to the right of the chair. There is enough room between the chair and couch to walk through. I keep a few pillows on the couch on the side closest to the chair so I can grab them from the chair. I have a coffee table in front of the chair and couch. I have 2 small tables to the left of my chair. The first table is big enough for a lamp and holds the remotes, a coaster for a drink and has room for a few books. I also keep my cell phone there when it is charging. The other table is smaller and has a shelf below. I put a pad of paper and pen on the top. I keep a calculator, jar with pens, pencils and highlighter, book marks and post it notes. I keep a basket on the floor that holds reading material, books, articles, mail, magazines, etc. I have a beautiful nature scene on the wall also. It is kind of a mini office, business and pleasure. The TV is on a bookshelf where I keep my most read books.

I want to have all this stuff by me in my comfortable chair so I can be reading, watching TV, listening to the radio, taking notes, studying or working on the computer from my chair. It is really

surprising how much reading and work you can do while watching a football game.

I remember my grandfather on my mother's side having a nice set up like mine. He was an organized man also.

I saw a photograph once of a really organized, famous, wealthy man with a set up like mine. I figure if he can have it good, so can I. I want to be able to watch TV, listen to music, read, take notes, study, email, surf the net, work on my business all from my comfortable chair. I suppose it is somewhat unhealthy because I can stay sitting for a long time, but I can really get a lot done.

Stupid Things

Some of the best ideas I have is from stupid things I have done or stupid things I have seen others do.

Just the other day I saw a guy moving appliances in flip-flops. I was astounded. Can you imagine what would happen if he dropped a refrigerator on his foot? You should be wearing leather work boots or at least sturdy hiking boots for that type of work. Even working on a boat without shoes seems ridiculous.

Men in flip-flops seems wrong to me. I guess sandals are ok depending on what you are doing. Flip-flops, how do you run from trouble? I've been at summer festivals where men are wearing flip-flops. Sometimes there are fights and gunshots at these festivals. I like to be able to get out of harm's way quickly. I don't want to worry about my feet or losing my shoes. If you are walking around you need decent shoes that you can walk quickly in or run if you have to.

Another stupid thing is to keep on drinking after you have had enough to get drunk. Why not have your fill of beer or drinks, get the nice buzz and then have some water or soda? You'll still be drunk, just not totally in the bag. You can always have another one if you want to. This has happened to me a number of times but I am working on it.

I just read the book about the comedian/actor Chris Farley. He died at 33 from a drug overdose. Reading about his life was a tragic story about someone who overdid everything. He would just chug alcohol like it was water and do all kinds of drugs to excess. It is such a waste since he was so funny and seemed to be a really great guy. He just couldn't seem to do anything in moderation. I am not a drug user but I do drink. I don't really have a problem with people using drugs if they want to either. Even the book points out that all the

famous people Chris Farley knew were at times drinking and/or using drugs and they are fine now. They were just able to keep it under control. The substance didn't control them; they partied and probably party still when the time is right.

Here are some other stupid things:

- Driving a motorcycle after having a few drinks.
- Running on ice.
- Jogging in the winter on the street in the dark.
- Being on the street at night more than just crossing the road.
- Continuing to do something that hurts.
- Walking fast on ice.
- Driving as fast in winter as in summer.
- Trying to park in the closest spot.
- Parking too close to another car and then not being able to open your door all the way.

What an Organized Man Has and Does

Here are some of the things an organized has and does:

- An organized man wears the right shoes for any occasion.
- An organized man carries cash always. Sure you can have credit cards for convenience. But it is hard to beat the feeling of having a few hundred dollars in your pocket.
- An organized man knows where the restrooms are. He lets his spouse, kids and the people he is with their location also.
- An organized man is informed about the basics of any situation. Where to park and where the car is after the event is over. What hospital room the patient is in and what to bring. How much cash is available to buy something? How much credit is available? When the bills are due? When are the birthdays and other events?
- An organized man keeps everything in its place, especially man things like tools, files, bills, books, records, computer files and his clothes.
- An organized man gives gift cards or cash as gifts unless he knows exactly what the person wants. My kids tell

me exactly what they want for birthdays and Christmas. They are not shy about telling me what they want. It is very difficult to get a gift for someone unless you know them very well. I have received a lot of nice gifts over the years but have struggled to use things that I really didn't want.

- An organized man has a 4 wheel drive SUV, truck or all wheel drive car if he lives in a climate that gets snow every year or if there is any chance of needing that type of vehicle. I think people buy these types of vehicles for the safety and security rather than the status of having one. Being able to get where you need to go gives a person a powerful feeling of safety and security. Of course, I don't always practice what I preach because I currently only have a front wheel drive car.
- An organized man is punctual. Can you be considered organized if you are consistently late?
- An organized man is a thrower. Throwing out excess stuff is the best way to be organized.
- An organized man is not a perfectionist. Perfectionists never get anything done.
- An organized man will get right at something. Procrastination never helps.
- An organized man will be a quitter. Being ready to quit something that is not right for you or that is bad for you is a good quality.

- An organized man is not afraid of work. Organizing involves some work.
- An organized man cares about time. Time is your most valuable resource. If you squander it, you are squandering your life

If you think all this is too time consuming, you are wrong. What takes the time is struggling against time wasters. You need to apply enough energy at the front end to make the back end a breeze. How do you expect to keep your life simple and easy and carefree if you are uninformed, lost, confused, out of money and in a bad marriage?

Stuff versus Experiences

I prefer paying for experiences and for things that make my life better and more interesting. I think people really enjoy their memories of what they did rather than what they have. I think that having a pocket full of money is one of the best experiences you can have. Your options are not as narrow. The types of experiences you can have with more money are a lot more fun than the experiences you have with your stuff.

Sometimes it takes just a little more money for some quality stuff to make the experience better. Like:

- One new shirt when you are going out for the evening.
- New hiking boots when you are going on a hiking trip.
- Popcorn at the movies.
- Your favorite soda on a scenic drive.
- The large entrée at the restaurant.
- Buying a drink for the girl you just met at the bar.
- Another ride for the kids at the carnival.
- A bigger tip for the good service.
- A nice beach bag.
- A well stocked grill box.

- A new shirt for your favorite team when you are at the sporting event.
- An extra scoop of ice cream at the ice cream shop.
- A large latte instead of a small coffee.
- Paying for parking rather than walking a long way.
- Fast internet service.

Sometimes spending a lot more is required to really make your life better. Like:

- First class airplane tickets.
- A large comfortable car instead of a small rattletrap.
- A really comfortable bed.
- A comfortable recliner.
- A bigger house.
- A second home.
- Getting a divorce.

You can't go through life without spending some money on stuff. I'm just suggesting that you choose wisely and spend more on experiences instead of stuff.

Saving Good Things For Later

I used to be the person who would save good things for later. I'd wear my old clothes while saving my good clothes for later. I'd do what I didn't want now and do what I want later. You know what? Later never comes. Somewhere down the line I made the switch to not waiting for later. I started wearing my favorite clothes now. I started doing things I wanted to do now. My life improved immediately.

I remember my freshmen year of college. It was still warm when school started, so you could still wear shorts. I had 3 or 4 pairs of nice shorts and 1 pair of shorts that were somewhat strange. I mostly wore the strange pair.

I was so intent on saving my good ones that I only wore my strange ones. I was a freshman in college away from home for the first time trying to make a good impression and I was wearing clothes that made me look like a goof ball.

I was saving my good shorts so I would have them to look good and in the meanwhile I was looking stupid. I wish I could go back and throw the strange shorts out. That is what I do now. I get rid of clothes that make me look bad.

I really do not know why I thought that way. I am not sure where that idea comes from, but I have it and have to always work on it. If you are going to have good stuff, why not use it? What are you saving your good things for?

Obviously, if you have an expensive suit that you only wear for weddings, funerals and job interviews, I would say to save it for those occasions. I am talking about normal day to day life. Wear your best

jeans when you go out at night. Wear your good clothes to work. The easiest way to ensure you only use your good stuff is to get rid of the bad and worthless and old things that are not suitable anymore.

This is the something new comes in, something old goes out rule. Now, whenever I get something new and that I really like I will get rid of something in its place. I want to use the best things that I have.

Your life now is the most important thing. Use your good things now. Enjoy your life now. Throw out the bad stuff that is broken, that doesn't work, that is extra and that looks bad on you.

