

## Clutter vs. Keepers: A Guide to New Year's Purging

Simple questions to get in touch with your clutter comfort level — and figure out what needs to go



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With a new year upon us and the resolution-making frenzy in full effect, many of us (myself included) will be casting aside clutter in an attempt to streamline our homes. But what, and how much, do you get rid of? What makes clutter, *clutter*? Where do you draw the line between an inspiring collection and a jumbled mess? And what about some of the styling tricks employed for photo shoots — creative or ridiculous? If you have ever walked into a friend's home and found yourself wondering how they can live with all of that *stuff*, you know that we each have our own clutter comfort level.

So the questions become: What is clutter *to you*, and what can you do about it? Read on to find where you stand on the clutter comfort continuum, then use the questions that follow to examine your reasons for keeping (or tossing) just about anything in your home.



### Part 1: Finding Your Clutter Comfort Level

Each of us has an innate sense of what feels "cluttered," so the first step in coming to terms with your own clutter is determining what your clutter set point is. Some of us would feel right at home in an English country home crammed full of antique furniture, vases, sculpture, potted plants and throw pillows galore. For others, that sort of living space would be incredibly unappealing.