

All About Soup (and tax organization)

January 22, 2017

This past week has given us some extremely cold weather in addition to a few snow days. A snow day is a perfect time to stay in by the fire and hibernate but it's also a great time to catch up on organizing projects that you've been procrastinating.

Soup storage

There are many ways you can store soup such as in individual containers but what about when you've got limited space and you're making extra? Get some standing freezer gallon sized zippy bags. Once your soup has cooled, use a Sharpie to mark the name of the soup on the bag and the date. Stand the bag up, opened, and pour the soup in. Seal it and lay it flat in your freezer. Use a cookie sheet if necessary to have a flat surface. Stack the bags in the freezer once frozen and they'll take up less room. You can also use an all purpose bin for storing your frozen soups.

Host a Soup Swap

My friend Kim Ferguson invited us to a soup swap at her home a few years ago and it's a fun way to try new soups and share with friends. For six guests, each person makes 6 quarts of soup. Bring one quart ready to eat and the others stored in individual containers. Everyone gets to sample a little of everyone's soup during the party and gets to take home a quart to have later. Print out recipes to hand out so people can make it themselves. Make a salad to accompany the soup, get some yummy bread and you've got a festive party with not a lot of extra work when it's crazy cold outside.

Tax season prep

Snow days mean relaxation and not leaving your house but what if you took a little time to tackle a looming organization project? As I wrote about for the [Steve McKenzie's blog](#) this past week, now is a perfect time to get ready for tax season. Today, get a bin to put all of your 2017 tax documentation that you receive (usually via mail) through the end of the month. As soon as you get the **year-end tax statements**, designate this bin for those as well as your **tax-deductible receipts**. You'll have everything together whether you complete your tax filing yourself or send it out to a professional. An ounce of organization is worth a thousand phone calls or an anxiety attack.*

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