

## **Holiday Décor Storage Made Easy**

**Albuquerque, NM.** As much fun as it is to decorate for the holidays, it can be a dreaded chore to pack up and store all those lights, ornaments and garlands for next year. Two professional organizers have some tips and tricks of the trade that will make storing your holiday finery easier this year and turn next year's holiday decorating into even more fun.

Allowing the time necessary to take down and properly pack and store items is imperative, says Leigh Ann Hensel of Buying Time Professional Organizing Systems. "You'll need at least as much, and probably more time to store than you did for set up. This will save you so much time and aggravation next year. Quickly shoving everything into one big box means you'll have a mess and a lot of stress next year." Keeping items together by room or area, labeling boxes and containers really helps, as does using reels to prevent tangled lights and the proper, sturdy cardboard or plastic storage containers for ornaments, wreaths and other odd sized items.

"Take pictures of or diagram your displays this year, especially complicated lighting schemes, so that you can duplicate the effect next time," offers Carolyn Taylor, owner of Organize Your Life, who helps one of her clients decorate an entire 9,000 square foot house, returning after the holidays to coordinate the packing up and storage of the decorations. Taylor advises clients to place the photos, or an inventory list, on the side of each container so that you can find exactly what you seek. "Never store candles or decorations with glued pieces in your attic or garage. They'll melt," she says. Instead, use an under the bed box. And if you do keep items in the garage or basement, be sure they are off the floor in case flooding happens.

Other quick tips from the members of the National Association of Professional Organizers include:

- Saving a box for odd items that you forget to pack with their mates or things that belong in the same room.
- Buying extra bulbs, ornaments and hangers after the holidays when on sale.
- Considering paring down your holiday displays to save time and stress.

**For interviews please contact Leigh Ann Hensel at 505-271-0282, Carolyn Taylor at 505-463-0010, or go to [www.nmorganizers.com](http://www.nmorganizers.com). Photos available.-30-**