



Lifestyle Feature

Affordable Luxuries For Spring (Cleaning)

Susan Yara, 03.21.06, 12:30 AM ET

Spring is in the air, and it's a time of renewal, rebirth and, yes, cleaning.

Fortunately, if you have the right tools, cleaning doesn't have to be a chore. Sure, many people would prefer to get the butler to do it or hire a general contractor to repaint and refresh, but you don't need to clean out your bank account in order to clean up your house. That is why, in this installment of Forbes.com's ongoing series of Affordable Luxuries, we are once again recommending products and services--in this case cleaning and organizing products and services--that may seem expensive but actually cost \$200 or less--sometimes a lot less.

For example, do you think hiring a professional organizer to come and render your home or office clutter-free is something only the idle rich can afford? If so, think again. Most people just don't have the time--or the expertise--to arrange their files or color code their socks. That is where someone like **Denise Caron** comes in. "With my business, **In Order to Succeed**, we manage projects that people have neither the time nor the patience to do themselves."

[See our list of Affordable Luxuries for Spring \(Cleaning\).](#)

A typical meeting with Caron begins with a walk-through of the area needing to be organized, followed by an assessment of the items it contains, where those items are kept and who else shares the space. Rates start at \$100 to \$150 per hour, and each session lasts anywhere from one to a few hours, depending on the situation. Caron says a single session can make a real difference in the way people get motivated. "When we leave after a session of a few hours, it's an immediate effect and improvement."

Of course, before getting organized, one must first clean up--which is where the **Bosch Compact Plus vacuum cleaner** will help do the trick. Not only is it a great vacuum, it's lightweight, contains a HEPA filtration system (ideal for those with allergies) and combines a roller nozzle for carpet and hardwood floors with a 2-in-1 tool for upholstery. Best of all, it fits into small spaces to help avoid clutter.

Rooms need a little freshening after keeping the windows close all winter? Try **Bella by Alora Ambiance Home Fragrances**, which blends the essential oils of ylang ylang, lemon and ginger root, making the whole house smell like a warm spring day for months. The diffuser for Bella or any of the other natural home fragrances by Alora Ambiance can be purchased for just \$80.

If the lady of the house needs to repair anything, **Barbara K** has the solution. All of her products are made with women in mind, such as her **tool kit** for \$39.99 and drill for \$49.99. Have any questions on how to fix something? Each product also comes with a handy book of tips to help solve just about any problem.

So what are you waiting for? Start making your purchases. Once all the cleaning, organizing and scrubbing is done, your home will look like a million dollars--even if you only spent a few bucks.

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