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 Meredith Suzuki

How To “Konmari” a NY-Sized Apartment (And Still Keep The Things You Love)



This post was contributed by [Lisa Tselebidis](#) (IG [@lisatselebidis](#)), a Certified KonMari Consultant, organizing enthusiast and minimalist. She’s helping people create a home and lifestyle that truly sparks joy for them.

When clients reach out to me for help in “[konmari-ing](#)” their home, they’re often afraid that I’m having them discard more things than they want. This couldn’t be further from the truth. In fact, YOU – the owner of your possessions – make all the decisions of what you want to keep and what you want to let go of. Also, the whole point of the [KonMari Method™](#) is to keep all the things that “spark joy” for YOU.

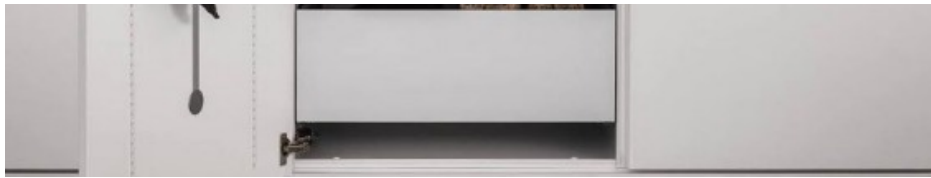
KEEPING VS. DISCARDING

The KonMari Method™ places emphasis on KEEPING the things that you love, rather than the discarding part of all the rest. Shift your mindset accordingly and approach your KonMari project this way. It'll make you more open to the whole experience as opposed to if you approached the project from a somewhat negative angle.

KONMARI ≠ MINIMALISM

In addition, KonMari is often equated with minimalism. This is not true at all. While you can certainly combine KonMari and minimalism (if that's what you want), KonMari doesn't put a finite number on things you are to keep. You might end up keeping many things or only a few things. It totally depends on you.



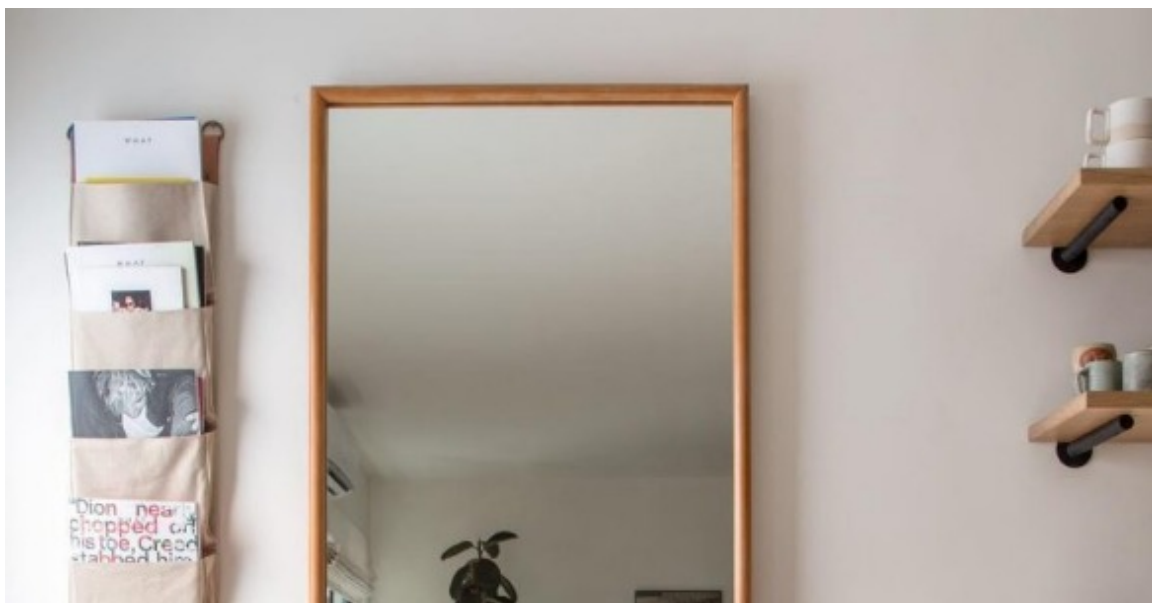


KONMARI TIPS FOR NY-SIZED HOMES

So now that we got a few misconceptions out of the way, I'd like to dive into some tips for those of you who want to apply the KonMari Method™ in a NY-sized (read: tiny) apartment. Of course, these tips are useful even if you live in a bigger space, but most of them are especially helpful if you have space constraints. Here we go:

Preparation Phase

1. **BIG CHUNKS OF TIME:** Give yourself around 4 to 5 hours of time for your first round. This way, you'll be able to get a good amount of work done and see the impact the method can make. This will motivate you to keep going!
2. **COMMIT:** Schedule the period of time you committed to (see above) into your calendar. That is, make an appointment with yourself and stick to it. At the end of the time, schedule another appointment for your second round.
3. **NO OBSERVERS:** If you have roommates or other people living with you, get them out of your house. Or schedule your tidy festival during a time where you know no one's around.





Discarding Phase

1. **CONTAINERS & GARBAGE BAGS:** It's always good to have some boxes, bins and garbage bags on hand that you can use for sorting sub-categories and to gather things you want to donate, sell or dispose of.
2. **REMOVE:** After each round of KonMari, move the things that you want to get rid of out of your home as soon as possible. There's no space for unwanted things in your apartment. Also, you don't want your roommates or other family members see your discard pile as this might lead to second-guessing or things staying with your roommates. Out of sight, out of mind.
3. **NO PASSING ON TO FAMILY/FRIENDS:** Don't send things you don't want any longer to your family members or friends because you think they might want them. Most of the time, they don't want your things. Passing on is oftentimes just delayed decision making.





Storing Phase

1. **COMPARTMENTALIZE:** Use bins and boxes for storing your things. It makes it easy to store like things with like and retrieve items from a closet.
2. **STORE VERTICALLY:** Think vertical storage for literally anything if possible. It helps you see and retrieve things more easily (e.g., watch how to fold and store clothes upright [here](#)).
3. **OFF THE FLOOR:** Try to get things off the floor. Make use of high ceilings and unused wall space as much as possible (e.g., pegboards, hanging storage, floating shelves etc.). It makes for a less cramped look and makes cleaning a breeze.

And there you have it. I hope these tips help you get started on your own KonMari tidying journey! For even more support, download a KonMari category checklist including a summary of the method's core principles [HERE](#). You can also check out some more [tips](#) that help you succeed and the [benefits](#) of tidying your home.