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## I Am Not a Hoarder...I Swear

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*Recycle, Repurpose, Save: By any other word*

I had a friend come over to my house here in SW Florida, haven't seen her in a year and she has never had the opportunity to come over to my wonderful house (which I share with my somewhat handy husband and two active daughters) and she had just endured the horrid winter in already winter-prone Minnesota. You can see why she needed to get a heaping-helping of our Sunshine State's namesake product.

Now, she is still single at (bleep-bleep yrs. old), lives in a Minneapolis efficiency condo and she is not used to all the hustle & bustle around a house like ours. After a day of getting acclimated and a second day excursion to Disneyworld, she wanted "the Grand Tour" of the house. Well, the place was clean, I knew she was coming and me and the girls put a spit-shine on the top 2 floors, so that wasn't a problem. It was when she wandered down the stairs...to the basement that she found herself in a completely different world.

That is when I nearly had to scrape her off the floor.

You see, I keep things. Not like everything, but to her it must have seemed like I don't throw anything away. She was shocked and was not afraid to show it.

"You weren't on that show **"Hoarders"**, were you? I watch A&E all the time and I feel sorry for "those" people," she was trying her best to be polite.

That is when I went in to action and showed her the method to my madness.

*“Everything has its place. Like on this shelf I save scraps of material for my quilting club. And over there, oh watch your head, Chuck keeps stuff we might need to fix this-or-that. Did I tell you that he’s a stay at home dad?”*

*“What’s this,” she holds up a curved stuffed thingy.*

*“That is a neck pillow silly! You know, when you get a crick at the top of your spine?”*

I went on to explain away just about everything we had down in our treasure-trove of “You never know when you might need this” stuff

My name is Ruth and I am not a hoarder. I have merely found my “repurpose in life.”