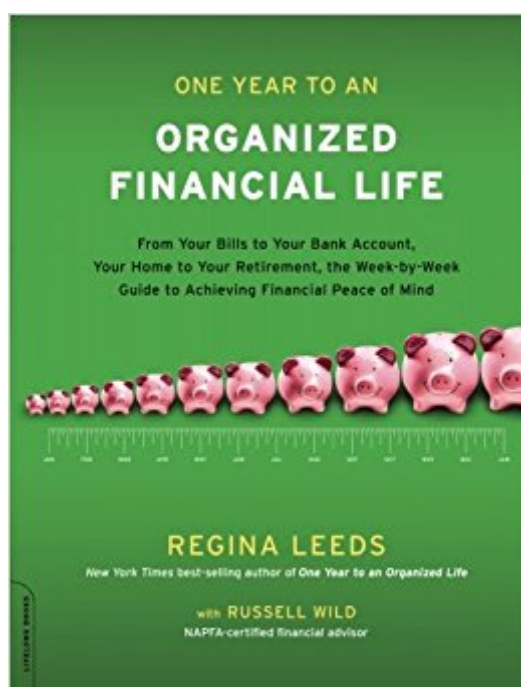


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# One Year To An Organized Financial Life: From Your Bills To Your Bank Account, Your Home To Your Retirement, The Week-by-Week Guide To Achieving Financial Peace Of Mind



## Synopsis

Do you constantly feel anxious about money? Have unopened credit card statements piled up on your countertop? Are you forever losing receipts for items you meant to return? In an economic downturn taking charge of your financial well-being is more crucial than ever. *One Year to an Organized Financial Life* is a unique week-by-week plan to make saving money simple, automatic, and stress-free. For decades, professional organizer Regina Leeds and financial advisor Russell Wild have helped thousands of clients get their lives in order. Using Leeds's "Zen organizing" approach, which addresses the underlying causes of chaos and replaces them with routines, they now show readers the steps to improving finances within a manageable timeframe. From sticking to a budget to getting out of debt, curbing spending to maximizing retirement savings, *One Year to an Organized Financial Life* makes it possible for anyone to live more richly on less.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a few months into this book and I have to say that I am slightly disappointed. I started off with high hopes. The book had some good tips in the introduction and the author sounded powered up about getting my financial life in shape and organized. I had a few gripes early on, but kept pushing through thinking that it would get better as it went, but it hasn't. I have found the book to be a mixture of irrelevance and surface-level information. For example, the budgeting week tells the reader to set up a budget. It explains a little bit of why a budget is important and sort of gives one example, but if the reader has never created a budget before they may not even know what categories are appropriate to budget for or how much they should be contributing to each area.

Another example, one week she says to organize your office area, but she doesn't cover what is important to include in your desk or office area. As I get further into the book I am continually frustrated by the fact that the author just tells the reader to do something instead of explaining how to do something or what the best way to do it might be. After reading I usually can't even recall what I am supposed to be doing, or I have to look-up information to fill in the blanks, which is frustrating--I feel like the book should be a comprehensive guide (or at least that's what I expected it to be). Additionally, you may want to consider that you will have to make further investments to go along with the changes that the author suggests. I had to buy pouches to organize my purse, files to create a filing system, drawer organizers to organize my desk, and so on (and I didn't buy many of the items that she suggested). She even suggests buying new furniture for your office if it is not suitable.

Just released in 2010, *One Year to an Organized Financial Life* is the latest installment from Regina Leeds, the "Zen Organizer". I've previously read her book "One Year to an Organized Life" and found it a refreshing change in the field of organization. This book continues a winning pattern and expands it to an area where I (and many others) especially need some serious help - our finances. Overhauling any aspect of our lives can be an intimidating. There are so many things we could do differently. So many small and large habits that need changing. Regina approaches this problem by having us concentrate on only one issue at a time, one per week, over the period of a year. Every month she introduces one key habit for the month, one helpful tool for the month, and then introduces one change or habit each week, in nice bite-sized pieces. Follow through on these easily manageable assignments, and in one year, ta-dah! you're financially organized. Or at least in a lot better shape than when you started. One of the beauties of this approach is that you can pick up the book any time during the year and start the program. You don't need to start in January (although January would make a great time to start). Some of the months deal with items specific to that time of the year. For example, in November Regina deals with gift-giving, holiday spending and organizing holiday parties and get-togethers economically. The fact that I tend to start thinking about these things in December instead of November is an indication of just how much help I need. The chapters and assignments give some really exceptional ideas for spending less money, making more money, saving for the future and protecting yourself from life's uncertainties.

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