

# A Deep Dive Into My Junk Drawer

Time to find out what I've been shoving in there over the years and whether it's still useful! (Hint: It's junk. And it isn't.)



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The bottom of a to-do list is a scary place. It's like the bottom of the ocean. What's down there? Maybe don't think about it. But this never-ending pandemic has left me with a lot of time on my hands, meaning I've finally run out of excuses to avoid cleaning up my junk drawer. Let's see what's been hiding in there...

## A Handful of Industrial Twist Ties

- **Description:** More durable than their paper-and-wire cousins, these twist ties are typically found around the cords of new appliances. (Fun fact: we pronounced them “twisties” growing up, though I have since learned that is a highly technical gymnastics term.)
- **Why I saved them:** I try to respect the environment, so I feel bad about throwing them away.
- **Likelihood of using them:** 1/10. I mean...how often do I wrap cords? And when I need to, why wouldn't I just use Velcro bands, which are also in the junk drawer solely in case we need to wrap cords?
- **Will I throw them away?** Yes. They'll probably end up as part of that giant plastic island in the ocean, which will no doubt be repurposed as a floating habitat for global warming refugees in about thirty years. So, it's almost like I'm helping the planet?

## A Vintage Ice Bag

- **Description:** This looks like something Betty Draper would give Don after he drunkenly hits his head on the door of the liquor cabinet (but, like, before the divorce).
- **Why I saved it:** Because it's adorable — it has green polka dots on a white background! You just fill it with ice and then it works like one of those boring, self-contained frozen gel packs, only you look way more stylish using it.
- **Likelihood of using it:** 0/10. I'm not made of time and the boring, self-contained frozen gel packs are way more convenient.
- **Will I throw it away?** No. I SAID IT'S ADORABLE.

## Pens... Lots of Pens

- **Description:** Really? Okay, well, in case you are today years old and don't know what pens are, they're used to write with.
- **Why I saved them:** You never know when you might have seventy-two people over to play Yahtzee and everyone needs their own pen to keep score. I don't want to be a

bad hostess. Yahtzee!

- **Likelihood of using them:** 5/10. There's a 50–50 chance that the one I select has ink! That's just math, people.
- **Will I throw them away?** No. I'm not going to sit there and test seventy-two pens! In fact, I'll probably add more, since I'm always getting them for free. When I borrow them and forget to give them back. (It's not stealing unless you do it on purpose.)

## A Selection of House Keys

- **Description:** These are the spares we hold onto for our friends in case they get locked out of their homes. Or, more accurately, *when* they get locked out of their homes. We have very forgetful friends.
- **Why I saved them:** So I can be the shero who saves the day! (Also, several friends have my house key, and I wouldn't want them to throw mine away. Unless we get friend-divorced, and then I'm going to go ahead and need mine back, mkay?)
- **Likelihood of using them:** 3/10. After the first couple, I realized I should've probably started labeling them. So I'm not entirely certain which key goes to what friend's house.
- **Will I throw them away?** No. I'd rather put all of them on one keychain and then pretend I'm an old-timey lady warden when I show up at my friend's locked door and try each one to see if it works.

## Charging Cables

- **Description:** Three 6-foot-long charging cables for my phone. Or maybe my Kindle. Or my Bluetooth speaker.
- **Why I saved them:** There's nothing quite as anxiety inducing as seeing your phone's battery drop below twenty percent. What if there's an emergency? Your phone could just crap out halfway through a heartwarming video on Twitter about a dog and a turtle becoming best friends! What happened? Did Bandit end up sharing his dog house with Pearl?! Now we'll never find out!!
- **Likelihood of using them:** 7/10. I'm not a fan of the length. Then why, you might impolitely ask, did I get 6-foot-long ones? Well, someone doesn't like to spend a lot

of time reading the fine print of her online purchases. Or really, any print about product information.

- **Will I throw them out?** No. Though I may order more, shorter ones and shove them in the drawer, too. You can never have enough.

## That Weird Little Battery

- **Description:** It's small and weird, as I said.
- **Why I saved it:** Because it powers that one thing. And obviously, I will need it when that one thing dies. What is that one thing, you ask? Good question. And I have the answer! It's the one thing that uses that weird little battery.
- **Likelihood of using it:** Could be 10/10. Could be 0/10.
- **Will I throw it out?** No. But the odds are good that I won't be able to find it when I need it, because, again, it's little.

Well, that's enough for today. Primarily because I cut my finger on one of the four wine-bottle openers I also keep in the drawer, and now I need to use one of them to open a bottle of wine and recover. But I'm sure I'll get back to it soon. Because if there's one thing this pandemic has taught me, it's obviously that we should all wash our hands more. What did you think it would be?

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