

# tip talk

organizing, cleaning, recycling & more



Keep it if you love it. Otherwise, donate it to charity.

## going green is one question away

You want to do your part to reduce, reuse and recycle, but how can you do it so it works for you? Organizational expert Erin Rooney Doland, the editor-in-chief of *Unclutterer.com*, says all you have to do is ask yourself: *Do I really need this?* To help you figure out which items can be donated (reuse!), and which items you can skip at the store (reduce!), here's her evaluation checklist:

### BEFORE YOU BUY

- Do I absolutely love it?
- Do I already own anything that performs the same function?
- Does this item save me time or space, or otherwise make my life easier?
- Where will I store this?
- Is this the best possible price and quality I can get?
- Do I need to do more research before I buy?

### BEFORE YOU RETURN IT TO THE CLOSET

- Does this item serve a clear purpose in my life?
- Do I have another item anywhere in my home that does the same thing?
- Have I used this in the last year?
- Is it broken, and if so, will I actually get it fixed?
- Does it make me happy to look at or use?

## gotta have it!

My dinner strategy usually consists of dumping vegetables in a bowl, adding some protein and topping with dressing. Thus, I eat a lot of salad. And I didn't know that my life was missing something until I found the oolu (or as I say it, ooooooh-looooo!), a semicircular knife that lets you skip much of the time-consuming vegetable cutting. Instead, simply chop off roots and cores, pile vegetables into one big bowl and attack with one of three different oolu grips: dicing, cutting, or my favorite, chopping, which lets you simply rock the knife back and forth in the bowl. The best part? The nylon material means you won't damage your bowl. The oolu comes with a salad knife, just sharp enough to cut cores but not your fingers. \$9.95 for a set; [prepara.com](http://prepara.com)

## THE BEST WAY TO recycle it

### CANDLEHOLDERS

I'm a jar-candle addict, but who wants to melt out the leftover wax so you can recycle the jar? I found a new trick: Put the used jar in the freezer, and an hour later, you can tap the bottom a few times and pop the wax right out. Better yet, stick to tea lights. As long as the package says that the metal cups are aluminum, you can pull out the used wick and toss the metal in the recycling along with your cans. ▶

