Recently we asked, via Facebook, “What are your most frustrating storage and organizing problems in the kitchen?” Hundreds of you responded, and these six trouble spots rose to the top.

**Problem #1**

“I need to clean up the ‘drop zone’ on the counter where papers, receipts, and bills lie until someone (me) can attack them (never).”

Anne Brett Long

**Our Fix**

Try a bread box as a collection spot for incoming paper. It conceals the stack and doesn’t look out of place on the counter. Each day, perform triage, sorting the papers into magazine files based on who needs to deal with what. Polder Retro Bread Bin, $45; target.com
PROBLEM #2 “The cabinets where we keep baking sheets are always a mess. How can you organize these items and not just stack them?”
Jessica Heffner

OUR FIX These inexpensive dividers attach to the bottom of a cabinet to keep flat items upright and easy to grab. Before installing, plot out where items will go so you leave enough room between racks for your larger pieces. Rationell Tray Divider, $5 each; ikea.com

PROBLEM #3 “Pots and pans are super difficult to organize in a tiny kitchen.”
Jennifer Grace Hodges

OUR FIX Add a simple helper shelf to turn one unwieldy stack of pans into two manageable ones. Turn a tray or cookie sheet into a pullout for lids. Rationell Variera Shelf Insert, $6; ikea.com

PROBLEM #4 “Under the sink. Cleaning supplies, trash bags, odds and ends. Ugh!”
Angel Forrest

OUR FIX Don’t use this area to store every cleaner you own; stow just what you need for your kitchen. Put cleaning products on a turntable with extra supplies in plastic bins below. Place everyday dishwashing supplies in front on a tray to catch drips. Hang brushes and a trash bag holder on the side wall. Single Stainless Steel Turntable, $20; containerstore.com
Buy only one shape of food storage containers—either rectangular or round, but not both—so they stack neatly.

**PROBLEM #5** “Drawers with utensils, garlic press, can openers, skewers—little things can be very hard to find when they all get dumped in a drawer.” Nancy Klem

**OUR FIX** First, take out everything, measure your drawer, and decide what to keep. (You don’t really need two peelers, do you?) Lay out your necessities in the drawer to determine what works where. After mocking it up, buy several containers in a variety of sizes, keeping the tools and drawer measurements in mind. Organizing these containers can be a bit of a jigsaw puzzle, so try different combinations to get the best fit. Linus Drawer Organizers, $3-$7; containerstore.com

**PROBLEM #6** “The food storage containers. Oh my, they’re always such a wreck.” Marea Bowser

**OUR FIX** Prevent a downpour of plastic products by stacking food storage containers in a pullout bin. Store lids in two smaller bins, organized by size. For glass containers, use a helper shelf so you’re not dealing with heavy, awkward stacks. Rationell Variera Box in White, $6-$7; ikea.com

For buying information see page 228.