

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



"A good plan violently executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed next week."
- **General George Patton**

Time Management Strategies to Help You Tackle Your New Year's Resolutions

Trafft.com & linkdin.com

Whether or not you're planning to make New Year's Resolutions, the start of a new year is always a great time to set goals and develop better habits. But for many of us, the demands of daily life soon get in the way, and it can be difficult to find time to tackle those new goals. Regardless of whether you're seeking to improve aspects of your career, health, relationships, or another area of your life, managing your time effectively can help ensure that you're able to accomplish the things that are important to you.

Here are a few simple time management strategies to keep in mind as you tackle your New Year's Resolutions:

- The two-minute rule. Have you ever forgotten to do an important yet simple task, such as paying a bill or making an appointment, and felt frustrated when you thought about how quick and easy it would have been to do the task on time? The two-minute rule can help prevent situations like that. If something will take less than two minutes to complete, just do it now as opposed to adding it to your to-do list. By quickly accomplishing small tasks before they become bigger headaches, you will gain positive momentum and free up time to focus on more important goals.
- The time management matrix. Popularized by Stephen Covey in his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, the time management matrix (also called the Eisenhower matrix) offers a simple way to group your tasks in terms of urgency and importance. To use it, draw a four-quadrant grid: in quadrant one, list the items on your to-do list that are both urgent and important. These are necessities that should be attended to first. In quadrant two, list tasks that are important but not urgent—these are things that often get postponed, but deserve a higher spot on your list because they are crucial to achieving your broader goals. In quadrant three, list things that are urgent but not important—these are things that often get prioritized because they are fun or easy to accomplish, but are often just distractions that eat away your time. Take a close look at these items to see what you can eliminate. Finally, in quadrant four, list items that are not urgent and not important. These are generally time-wasting activities that should be avoided or given less time in your schedule.
- Batching. Often, simple distractions like emails, phone calls, and paperwork can prevent you from accomplishing your more important goals. The batching method suggests grouping similar tasks together and giving them your undivided attention so you can check them off all at once, without letting them infringe on the time spent on higher-priority tasks.

Shaved Fennel and Arugula Salad

inspiredtaste.net

Ingredients:

- 1 medium orange, zested and juiced
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 fennel bulb
- 2 cups baby arugula
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper

Directions:

- Make the dressing by whisking the orange juice, orange zest, apple cider vinegar, olive oil, a pinch of salt and a few grinds of black pepper in a large salad bowl. Taste for seasoning and adjust as necessary.
- If the fennel stalks are attached to the fennel bulb, cut them from the bulb and reserve about 2 tablespoons of the wispy green fronds for later and either discard or save the stems for your next stock or broth. Set the bulb on its flat end, top side up, then cut it in half. Slice the fennel as thin as possible — a mandoline slicer is helpful.
- Add fennel slices to the bowl with dressing and toss. Set aside and let the fennel sit for 20 minutes. To serve, add arugula, feta cheese and reserved fennel fronds to the fennel slices and lightly toss.

Upgrade Your Home's Style with These Top Design Trends for 2022

thespruce.com

At the beginning of each year, interior designers strive to predict the décor trends that homeowners will gravitate towards in the coming months—and if your home is on the market, incorporating some of these trends may be a great way to appeal to buyers.

Currently, many recent and emerging design trends have been shaped by world events, such as the ongoing pandemic and supply chain issues. For example, here are a few of the top trends that experts predict will be popular in 2022:

- Multifunctional spaces. Over the past several months, many people's homes have served numerous roles: shelters, offices, classrooms, leisure spaces, and more. As working from home remains common, buyers may want to see that your rooms can comfortably be used for multiple purposes. For instance, even if you don't have a full home office, consider setting up a workstation or showcasing multifunctional furniture.
- Natural elements. In keeping with the trend towards earth tones, homeowners are increasingly bringing elements of nature indoors, such as plants, natural light, and ventilation. Consider purchasing a few easy-to-maintain houseplants, such as snake plants or pothos, and ensuring that trees and shrubbery near your windows are properly trimmed so there is nothing obstructing the sunlight.
- Neutral colors. Another trend that designers attribute to the pandemic is a preference for neutral colors, which help create a calming haven while the world remains in flux. If you're planning to add new colors to your home—whether through painting, furniture, or accent pieces—opt for earth tones, such as beige, gray, white, and soothing shades of brown and green.
- Vintage items. There are two main forces driving the affinity for vintage items: a growing focus on sustainability, and supply chain issues that are making it more difficult to purchase new goods. Luckily, quality vintage décor and accessories are generally easy to find at thrift stores, flea markets, and online marketplaces.



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