



## Organize Your Closet

As the seasons change, naturally so does your clothing. Let's take a look at how well your closet is working for you.

It has been calculated that most of us wear 20% of our clothes 80% of the time. Obviously, we have more clothes than we need, and could benefit from a good closet redesign.

In the ideal situation, every time we buy something, we would throw or give away a similar item. If you need another pair of jeans, get rid of some old ones. When you buy a new pair of tennis shoes, throw out the old pair. You were enticed to purchase another black shirt? Give one away.

Allow yourself several hours for a closet makeover, because as with most home projects, the chaos will get worse before it gets better. You will need time to consider three options for each item: do I keep it, throw it away, or donate it?

If you haven't worn an article for a year, it will probably stay in your closet, unworn for another season. If it's out of style, let it go. Try not to let yourself get sentimental remembering each piece's history ("I wore that on my first date with my husband" or "That was the first coat I bought with my own money").

Once every item has been tried on and decided upon, replace what remains in order of color and season. For example, all pants should be hung together, starting with less frequently worn or out of season at the back, and most often worn in the front, where they can be easily seen and accessed. Group shirts and blouses by color, light to dark, and short to long sleeved, so you can find each piece quickly.

Once all the hanging clothes are in order, look at your shoes. Inexpensive organizational storage can be purchased at any home improvement store, which gives you the space to sort through and organize your shoes by season, color and style. A wicker or plastic laundry basket can hold tennies, flip flops and slippers, if you have the floor space.

What about folded clothing, like sweaters? Overhead shelving can be used, with dividers or containers used to keep order. Most closets have room for an additional overhead shelf. Another hanging rod can be added, as well as hooks at the sides or along the back

for purses, beach bags or a bathrobe. Also, a small dresser may be introduced if there is space available.

Clear plastic containers, hatboxes, laundry baskets, and large totes can be filled with ski clothes, rarely used items, purses and hats. Specialized belt and tie hangers can contain dozens of pieces on one hanger.

Minimize your possessions, organize what you have and love, and utilize all the space you have available. This will lighten your load, simplify your life and leave you open to new possibilities...in your closet, and your life.

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