

Tips To Declutter Your Closet

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Wednesday--March 11, 2009

Many people find it challenging to keep their closets organized and clutter-free. Using the following tips can help keep your closets orderly and easy to access.

Tip #1: Edit Your Wardrobe

- Develop a “use it or lose it” attitude with your wardrobe. Studies show we wear 20% of our clothing 80% of the time – *National Association of Professional Organizers*. Keep the 20% of clothing you use regularly and consider downsizing the rest.
- To help determine what clothing to downsize, at the beginning of each season hang your clothing with the hanger heads facing “backwards”. When you use your clothing, put it away with the hanger head facing the right way. By the end of the season, you can easily see what you haven’t worn and can possibly do without.

Tip #2: Rotate Seasonal Clothing

- Removing seasonal clothing creates more space in your closet to store items you currently use.
- To help keep seasonal clothing dust free, store them in a breathable container with a lid.
- Use cedar blocks to help prevent moths from damaging your clothes.
- Click here for more information on how to store seasonal clothing properly from HGTV (<http://www.hgtv.com/organizing/how-to-switch-out-seasonal-clothing/index.html>).

Tip #3: Practice the One-In/One-Out Rule

- Every space or closet has a “proper fit”. Trying to cram too much into a space leaves it cluttered and less functional.
- After decluttering and organizing your closet, practice the one-in/one-out rule by removing something old before adding something new. This will help you maintain a proper fit in your closets.

Tip #4: Provide a “Donate” Container in Each Closet

- Keep a bag or container in each closet so family members have a place to discard unwanted clothing. Once the bag is full, donate it to younger family members or take it to your favorite charity.
- If something doesn’t fit it tends to be tossed into the dirty clothes hamper. Using a donation container helps eliminate outgrown clothing from continually being recycled through the laundry, yet never worn.

Tip #5: Photograph Your Outfits

- There are few things more frustrating than trying to figure out what to wear, especially when you’re in a hurry. Group outfits and accessories together and photograph each outfit to remind you of your possibilities. This works especially well for younger children who struggle with putting together outfits on their own.
- Keep your outfit inventory handy in your closet for a quick reference.

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