

Creating More Functional Closets

- Designate a place for everything in your closet.
- Leave enough room between garments for air to circulate. Helps keep clothes neat and makes it easier to find what you need quickly and easily.
- Use special hangers to keep garments in shape. The choice of hanger -- wooden, plastic, padded -- depends on the weight of the item.
- Take clothes from the cleaners out of plastic bags right away.
- Organize clothes by outfit or by category: blouses, shirts, slacks/pants, suits, dresses, etc.
- Put hooks on the wall for handbags and totes spacing them at different heights. Or, hang handbags from hangers or hooks that fit over the clothes rod (shower curtain rings work well).
- Hang clothes in the same direction.
- Group colors together within each category.
- Group shoes: by season, color or activity (such as sports, casual, dressy, work)
- Use cedar to prevent moth problems.
- Reassess clothes after each season. Consider donating clothes you do not enjoy wearing or have not worn for the past two seasons.
- Repair or toss ripped or torn clothing.
- Make a list of what you own by category.
- Make a list of what you "need" before you go clothes shopping ... and stick to it.
- Label all boxes.
- Utilize clothing rods efficiently -- short items on double hung rods (e.g. blouses, skirts, shirts); longer garments on tall closet rods (e.g. dresses, bathrobes, coats)
- Part with an item when you buy something new.
- Designate a separate area for clothes that need cleaning.
- Dry clean clothes at the end of each season.
- Keep a stepstool close by -- a narrow one will wedge into a small space.
- Ask a friend to help you pare down your wardrobe.
- Locate clothes most often used in accessible parts of your closet.
- Use the hard-to-reach closet areas for less used items and out-of-season clothes.
- Lay out your clothes the night before.
- Invest in wood trees to keep the shape of leather shoes.
- Use cloth garment bags for out-of-season clothes.