



## CLOSET ORGANIZING TIPS

Congratulations! You are ready to tackle that overstuffed closet! Did you know that most people only wear 20% of their clothes on a regular basis, 10% are set aside for special occasions, and the other 70% are hardly ever worn! Thinning out your wardrobe will save you time and stress.

Before you begin, make sure you set aside enough time to complete your closet project from start to finish. That means two to four hours for a small closet and four to six hours to tackle a walk-in closet. Also, decide what types of items you want to store in the closet. Clothes and shoes only? Wrapping paper? Ski equipment? Kid's art projects? Dirty laundry? Plan ahead to create storage space somewhere else in the house for all items you don't want piled in your closet.

### STEP #1:

To sort and store items, buy a few plastic bins, collect some large, sturdy cardboard boxes and purchase heavy-duty garbage bags. Buy a sufficient supply of sturdy, plastic hangers. They are inexpensive and can be purchased at any discount store. If you find plus-size clothes slip off the wire hangers, invest in extra-large hangers and foam hanger covers. While you're at the store, you may want to consider purchasing a few sturdy skirt and pants hangers, an expandable shoe rack and a tie rack if you wear ties.

### STEP #2:

Start with a clean slate by pulling out everything that's currently in your closet. As you remove each item, sort it into one of five piles:

1. **Trash:** If it's broken, outdated, lost its mate, out of style, ugly, useless or moldy then it's junk! Toss these items into large garbage sacks for disposal.
2. **Charity:** These are items that are the wrong color, wrong style, wrong size, don't go with anything else in your wardrobe, make you feel unattractive to wear them or you haven't worn them in a year or longer. If you aren't sure if it's the wrong size, try it on now. Don't keep items that "might fit me again one day" because you are organizing your closet for who you are today not five years ago! Also, you may not realize it but the items you no longer want or need would be a blessing to an underprivileged family. Place these items into boxes or garbage sacks for transportation to a donation site.
3. **Repair:** These are items that require action such as shoes that need new soles or clothes that need mending. Place these items into a box and take them within seven days to an alteration or shoe repair place.
4. **Storage:** These are items you want to keep, but not in your closet. Place them in storage boxes or plastic bins and label them before moving them to a more appropriate location.
5. **Keep:** These are the items that go back in your closet once you've finished sorting. "Keep" items include; the clothes you love and you wear most often, clothes that you like, that fit



you and that you wear from time to time, special occasion items such as cocktail dresses and holiday wear. “Keep” items can also include accessories such as purses, winter hats, gloves and scarves. Accessories can be placed in inexpensive organizing containers on the shelves of your closet.

**STEP #3:**

Now it’s time to put everything in its proper place. Place your “keep” clothes on your new plastic hangers and make sure the clothes and hangers are facing the same direction. If you are sharing the closet with someone else, put each individual’s clothing on either side of the closet. Group together like items such as blouses, skirts, pants, jackets. Set up your expandable shoe rack and neatly place your shoes on it.