

Do you dread opening your closet door?

Can you almost hear your clothes whimpering because they are jammed in so tight? Not to mention the frustration when it has taken you a half hour to find what you want only to realise you have four outfits that are virtually the same.

Here are 6 steps to help you get out from under all that closet chaos.

1. Decide to decide. Organizing anything can be emotional and difficult. It brings up past mistakes (I bought this when I already had three), hopes for tomorrow (I might wear it someday) and nostalgic feelings (I travelled Europe in this). Keep your primary goals - to lessen your stress, enjoy your wardrobe, save time - in the forefront of your mind.
2. Take each item out of the closet and decide if you want it. Ask yourself questions to help with the decision. Try to forget the buying mistakes and the clothes that used to fit. Look ahead and ask – Would I wear it now? Do I feel comfortable and look good in it? Is it in style?
3. Assess what is left. Decide if it has to stay in the closet. Sometimes due to storage restrictions items besides clothes may have to be there.
4. Sort items into groups - shirts, pants, dresses etc. This shows how much you have and helps you determine what kind of equipment you will need. Also think about what you use the most often, how they should be stored (hung or folded) any physical limitations (height, back problems) or the number of shoes you own.
5. Measure the closet, including height, to know how much space you have. Determine what type of storage you will need – drawers, shelves, hanging rods, shoe holders, etc. Then estimate how much of each you will need. Decide where the rods, shelves, drawers etc. will go or hire a closet organizing company. If you are doing it yourself don't be afraid to lower hanging rods or raise shelves to get as much use of the space as possible. Don't forget the wall space that can be used to hang belts, purses or shoe racks.
6. Keep at it. Purge once a year or when the seasons change. If you buy something new, donate something old. Put items back where they belong so you know how much you have.

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