

## Organizing Your Closet for the Fall

It's time to go through with it. You're either very excited or anxiously dreading the idea. Organizing your closet is one of the best things you can do to simplify your daily routine and eliminate stress. Before we get started there are a few rules you must decide now that you're willing to follow.

**Rule #1** Everything must be easily accessible and viewable.

**Rule #2** If you don't love it, lose it. Anything that is torn, tight, dingy, faded, dated, stained, and too big or you don't feel good wearing, it has to GO.

**Rule #3** Things you haven't worn in the past 2 years you are going to let it go.

**Rule #4** Items that are not currently of use to you will not stay. (see rule #2)

I know you don't want to give away your things you paid good money for but consider this, the things you don't need or use could be a real blessing to someone else. Learn to let go of stuff, it's just stuff. Now let's get started!

Step 1 **Purge** We won't start sorting yet. First you must scale down. Get rid of anything and everything that breaks the rules.

Step 2 **Pack** Remove your out of season clothing and prepare them for spring. Make sure everything is drycleaned or washed. Fold your tees and tops using computer paper as a folding template, which will help prevent creases. Use airtight storage containers to keep clothes fresh and protect them from dirt. Store seasonal clothes on a top shelf or back corner of the closet. If you have the luxury of space, then move seasonal items to another closet or room. Long term storage should be out of the way.

Step 3 **Prepare** Let's get your space ready. Use the same type hanger throughout your entire closet. Slim hangers are perfect because they take up less room than regular hangers. Now you can start sorting. Lay everything out with like items together i.e. dresses, short sleeve top, skirts, jeans, etc. Complete the preparation of your new space by adding a fresh coat of paint in your favorite color. Select coordinating hangers and storage containers to compliment your new pallet.

Step 4 **Plan** This is where the real fun begins. Getting your closet organized is going to be pretty simple from here. Take an inventory of all the things you have decided to keep. You can see what you have and determine if you'll need more hanging space or additional space for folded items. If more hanging space is needed an easy solution is to use a double hang extension bar. They are simple to use and require no tools to install. Next plan space for your shoes and accessories. Use clear shoe boxes so you won't break any rules. Another solution for your shoes is to store them in the original shoe box and tape a picture of your shoes to the outside of each box.

Step 5 **Partner** Use a local consignment shop. If you are having a tough time letting go of your unused clothing you can place them on consignment. Getting a few bucks for something you can't use any more is great motivation.

Complete your closet inventory checklist by listing all the wardrobe essentials you will keep an eye out for. Go ahead, grant yourself a small reward; go shopping. Remember you now have space, but only for those things you absolutely love and look great in. Have Fun! Each day you will enjoy a simple calm sense of accomplishment instead of anxiety as you decide what to wear.

Congratulations! Now that you have a space that you not only love but one that is functional, life will seem just a bit sweeter.

*Liz Mason*