

by Jennifer Patrick



CLOSET CLEAN-UP

*The perfect
thing to do
on a cold
snowy day*

Wouldn't it be great to simplify and organize your life? An organized home can be therapeutic especially during stressful times. Purging unwanted items can be liberating and can help you make some much needed extra cash to go shopping with! I don't know about you but I miss shopping!! To quote one of our favorite shoppers "Shopping Is My Cardio!" -Carrie Bradshaw.

Here are some tips to help you maximize space:

First THE RULES:

1. The Two Year Rule (they usually say one, but I think two is more realistic). If you haven't worn it in two years, it's time to say buh-bye!
2. The Love Rule. If there is anything you don't LOVE in your closet, it's time to go! (Imagine LOVING everything in your closet?)
3. The Fit Rule. If it hasn't FIT in two years, it's time to go. Let's face it, if you lose or gain weight the styles and cuts are always changing anyway.

To truly get through THE RULES properly, you must try EVERYTHING on! I know it sounds tedious, but we love to do it at our favorite stores, don't we?

Closet Organization Tips:

- **Make an investment.** We invest in our clothes and accessories, so why not invest in our closets? Fabulous clothing, shoes, and accessories deserve the very best! It IS worth it to splurge on closet organization (California Closets and those types of services). The price difference between doing it yourself or hiring them is minimal!
- **Matching hangers are also a MUST** for an organized closet (Hangers.com and other internet stores are the most reasonable to buy higher quantities). Wood hangers are lovely if you have the room, but there are other more compact types so it really depends on your space. (Remember Mommy Dearest—NO WIRE HANGERS!!)

- **Loosen Up!** Don't you love how the clothes are displayed in your favorite boutiques? That's because everything isn't stuffed together! When you clean out, concentrate on the "Less Is More" concept. Less items of higher quality that you LOVE can be much more satisfying than a closet full of bargains that are just okay!
- **Create an inspiration board.** Hang up a bulletin board in or near your closet (feel free to make it pretty!) and rip out looks that strike you in fashion magazines for your board. You may have some pieces already that will work towards achieving that look! Then make a list of what you need when you go shopping!
- **When you know an outfit looks great,** put the pieces on the floor (accessories, too!) and take a picture. Or have a friend snap a photo of you, this way you remember exactly what you did for the next time. This can also help you put some outfits together ahead of time. We rarely have time when we're rushing around!
- **Rethink some of your classic pieces.** Cut the arms off a trench and make a dress. Hem those floods to make cool trouser shorts (hot for Spring)! Change the buttons on a jacket or dress to give a richer look. Break up your suits-hang the jackets and pants/skirts separately in your closet and mix them with casual pieces to create a new look. Change hemlines on skirts and dresses to update them.
- **When shopping funds are low and shopping desire is high,** you may want to consider selling some of the items that don't make the cut. Selling items that you seldom wear but are in great shape can help you make money towards a new shopping fund. Just because you are not in love anymore doesn't mean your items don't deserve to be loved by someone new!

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