

the PERFECT closet

by Eileen Koff

Keeping Your Wardrobe Current

The next time you're putting away laundry or dry cleaning, grab an armful of clothes that you haven't worn since you can't remember when and try them on in front of a full-length mirror. Putting on just a limited amount of clothes keeps your wardrobe current and in style. Put the ones that you love back into circulation; donate the rest.

TOSS-IT TIPS:

- The keepers must fit, be in style, and not need major alterations or repairs.
- Don't let the "this item was very expensive" guilt you into keeping something. Your closet is prime real estate.

WHY IT WORKS?

If your weight has fluctuated over the years, this method lets you pinpoint what fits now and bag memories of your body-size history.

Eileen desires to help women reach a level of order and balance in their everyday lives. You can contact Eileen at Eileen@tothenextlevel.net.

Are you still playing Russian roulette when you open your closet? Taking back your closet is easier than you thought possible with a few tips from *To The Next Level* (an organizing specialist business). You'll be wondering why you waited so long to enjoy opening up your closet door. Conquering your clothes closet is easier than you think if you adapt some of these strategies and techniques that I recommend to most of my clients.

Here are my top seven strategies and techniques that will have you singing instead of moaning when you enter the dark and mysterious space that was once your closet.

1. Start with a bright light. How can you see anything in the dark recesses of your closet unless you shed a little light on the subject? Using florescent is the safest choice, although incandescent shows your clothes colors more truly and is safe if you enclose the bulb or recess it.

2. If your clothes are crammed together like a can of sardines, find more hanging space. No, you don't have to bump your son out of his room and make that your closet; all you need is to create a double hanging rod. Hanging rods that hook over existing rails are a smart, inexpensive, and an instant way to create extra room for short hanging clothes.

3. Consider a valet rod. When I was designing my own closet for my birthday present to myself, I decided that putting in a valet rod was my best decision. I use it every single day for helping me decide what I'm going to wear the next day and I hang my dry cleaning there before it goes back into the correct section of the closet. I really have fun deciding what to match with what when I can see what I want to match. The valet rod allows me to do that.

4. Count the number of free hangers in your closet. If you have more than 10, then you win the award for the "they're free, so why do I have to pay for expensive hangers." There's a good reason wire hangers are free: They're basically worthless. If you want to prolong the life of your clothes, don't keep them on wire or flimsy plastic hangers. Wood, padded, or felt-covered hangers are the best ways to go for maintaining the shape of a garment.



5. Install hooks for your scarves and/or belts. This is another organizing wonder. Until I installed my belt hook, my belts and scarves invariably got tangled up or lost on the floor. Remember these also work great for ties.

6. Create more space for shoes. A shoe rod that is a shorter version of the traditional hanging shoe bag will fit in a double-hanging rod system or, another nifty trick is to make use of the back of your closet with an ingenious rack that can hold up to 12 pairs of shoes along with other accessories that have no home.

7. Use clear shoeboxes. They are not just for shoes! These smart organizing items make great storage for anything from bras, underwear, socks, and hosiery.

Your closet is the most intimate room in your home – it reflects you! How well you keep your closet has a direct correlation to how you see yourself and how you want others to see you. Going through these simple tips will only take 15 minutes a week and the result will not only be a better wardrobe system, but it will enhance the way you perceive yourself. You are a princess in the Kingdom of God...you are worth it!

Eileen Koff, CPO, is the founder and president of To The Next Level, a certified professional organizing business based in Long Island, NY. The organization specializes in a variety of organizational solutions, including residential interiors, home offices, student organizations, paper and time management, and more recently photo organizing.



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