

PHONETIC

A magazine about language models by Wissal Idmessaoud

A clean and organized closet can give you peace of mind and save you time and money, according to experts. However, we tend to clutter those closets with clothes that don't fit, linens, tax records and anything else we want out of sight.

"We wear about 80 percent of our clothes 20 percent of the time," says Tracy McCubbin, owner of dClutterfly in Los Angeles. When the clothes pile up, it reaches the point where you don't even want to open your closet door. According to Adele Mahan, owner of Fresh Start Transitions in Charlotte, North Carolina, that's when people give up on the closet and start dumping clothes on a chair, opening the rest of the home to clutter.

Consider these helpful hints to get your closet in tip-top shape before it overflows into the rest of your house.



Separate your clothing into categories, with piles for each type of item, such as pants, skirts, blouses, shirts, shoes and boots.

Go through your clothes and be really honest. If you haven't worn something in a year, or if it's in poor condition or doesn't fit, get rid of it. There's no point in spending time organizing clothes you'll never wear. For items you're purging, ask yourself, "Could someone else use this?" If so, donate the item to a local charity or Goodwill. If it's too worn to give away, add it to the trash pile.

McCubbin recommends the hanger experiment if you have trouble getting rid of clothes. Put all your hangers backwards. After you wear and wash something, put it back on a hanger facing the correct way. If there are any hangers left backwards after six months, then it's time to give those garments a new home. Consider storage methods for clothes that won't be making an appearance for months. Where you put them depends on your space situation, but storage options include garment bags in the attic or Rubbermaid tubs under the bed.



Hangers are important tools when it comes to closet organization.