

KINDS OF CLOSETS

Entry/Mudroom: outerwear, foul-weather gear, sporting goods and equipment, pet items

Presents/Gifts: items gathered throughout the year as gifts, wrapping paper, bows, ribbon

Party: supplies for parties and entertaining, decorations, children's party games

Pantry: bulk foods, serving pieces, smaller appliances, surplus paper products

Clothes: clothing, shoes, adornment, and accessories

Utility: household maintenance items, cleaning supplies, tools

Linen: towels, bed linens, surplus bathroom supplies, sewing kit

STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF A CLOTHES CLOSET

These are the things I'd like to find in any clothes closet. Use this as a shopping list for any items or elements you may be missing.

- Good, bright, and ample lighting
- An ample supply of wood, padded, or other quality hangers (preferably all uniform in size and type)
- Sturdy rods and shelves that don't bow or cup under weight
- Hooks or a hooked hanger for belts
- Hooks for robes
- Racks or hooked hangers for neckties
- Shoe racks/shelves/cubbies that are expandable or already sized for your shoes
- A valet hook or pullout rod
- Containers, baskets, or bins for small or odd-shaped items
- Containers, baskets, or bins for small handbags (purses, clutches, etc.)
- Clear shoe boxes for special-occasion shoes

The following are things I wouldn't like to find in any clothes closet.

- Dry-cleaning bags discarded and lying on the floor
- Old food or food containers
- The one remaining shoe of a former pair

- Random piles of dirty laundry or baskets of clean, unfolded laundry
- Discarded or obsolete telephone equipment
- Expired animals—pets or pests

CLOTHES + PROPER STORAGE

If space allows, this is how you will organize your closets.

- Items will be sorted by type—all slacks together, shirts together, coats, etc.
- Within each type, they're further sorted by color and style—long-sleeved or short-sleeved, by neckline, etc.
- All two- and three-piece outfits go together and stay together
- All hanging clothes are kept on uniform hangers, so everything hangs at the same level
- Robes and nightwear hanging on hooks nearest to the door
- Handbags and decorative hats on shelves (cold-weather hats belong in coat closets)
- Smaller handbags (purses, clutches, etc.) in baskets or bins
- Baskets or bins for small or odd-shaped items
- Baskets or bins for scarves
- Belts on hooks or hangers with hooks
- Racks or hooked hangers for neckties
- Seasonal shoes on the floor (snow boots, etc., are stored with outerwear in a coat closet)
- Clear shoe boxes on shelves for special-occasion shoes

If adequate space for your entire wardrobe is unavailable in one contiguous space, your closets should contain only clothes current to the season.

Twice a year, and it may be worth adding it to your calendar just like daylight saving time, you can rotate your wardrobe to a storage closet or a hanging rack, so the current season's clothes are always front and center.