

DON'T LOOK IN THE CLOSET

Do you look in the closet every morning and say to yourself, “I have nothing to wear”, even though your closet is jam packed with clothes? You’re not alone! For some people, the closet is a place where they throw everything so there's no mess on the bedroom floor. When you have too many clothes, shoes and accessories in a closet it becomes another catchall where you can't find anything.

As a woman I am guilty of owning way more clothes than I need or will ever wear more than once. Shoes, now that is my weakness—I love them and have way too many! That all said, each item either has a place or gets donated. Shoes go on a shoe rack or in a shoe bag that hangs in the closet. This way there are no shoes on the floor. When the weather's nice I store winter boots and shoes in a plastic tub that I keep in the utility room. I don't recommend the plastic tub for your clothes because it will only keep you from getting rid of them.

I like to organize my closet by putting outfits together. It may take a little time to do at first but 30 minutes a day for a few days and you should be able to get through the closet. Once you organize clothes like this, simply grab one hanger and go! The entire outfit is complete and you know that it looks good; you won't put it on and not like it. It takes less time, it's efficient, and it's simply just a lot easier. It's a great exercise to do with your kids too!

For additional items like tops and sweaters that you might have multiples of you can do one of two things: (1) donate or toss them, as always, or (2) group them together by color so you can see what you have. An added bonus is that it makes your closet look like a rainbow! More than two of the same color? Donate, donate, donate! Although I said earlier that giving things away can be painful on the flip side, donating makes you feel good because you know someone who could really use the items will now have access to them. Isn't that better than having them sit at the bottom of your closet for eternity?

I keep a laundry bin in the closet for odds and ends like socks and undies and non-stinky items—those go directly in the mudroom which is where my washing machine is. If you will be throwing things in there anyway (which most of us do), doesn't it make more sense to put it in a bin, as opposed to leaving it on the floor?

Another way to keep your closet looking tidy is to have proper hangers. Get rid of the wire hangers from the dry cleaners and cheap plastic hangers. They are not good for your clothes anyway! It took me a long time to find hangers I like. I now use non-slip velvet hangers for tops and dresses, similar hangers with grips for skirts, and proper pants hangers for trousers. It may sound a little OCD, but having matching hangers makes your closet look organized and they align properly so you can see what you have.

I suggest scheduling a closet makeover with a style professional. They can help you put outfits together with the clothes already in your closet. You will be amazed at the looks they will put together. Besides, shopping in your closet is less expensive, too!