

THE CLOSETS

Closets (beyond clothes)... you've got 'em girlfriend but are you using them? I mean reeeeeeealllly using them to their full potential. Time to bust out and turn them into a "Be-All-they-can-be closet".

approx. time for initial project: 3 hours + shopping time
maintain: every 6 months -1 year

You'll need:

- Your SHE-itt kit
- Bins/Boxes
- Large garbage bags or shopping bags
- Other storage containers may be needed depending on your stuff/space.

PLAN

1. ASSESS YOUR CURRENT SITUATION

Paper + Pen in hand you are going to peruse your home and make a list of your closets and a general list of items they currently contain. NEXT you'll determine what will go where. Here's an example for you:

CLOSETS

Front Hall

coats
mittens
return basket
video camera

Linen Closet/Catch all

linens- sheets + blankets
ribbons + some gift wrap items
keepsakes-art work etc
photo albums, yearbooks
vacuum
gift items
games
craft items-mine + some kids
cookbooks
office supplies

2. REVISE YOUR CLOSET LIST

Consider these questions:

- What basic items should go into each closet?
for ex. The hall closet should house your coats + mittens as well as space to hang a guest's coat.
- What is not in this closet that SHOULD be housed in this closet?

Name your Closets using categories as inspiration

Linen Closet... I now crown you [keeper of all things linens and memories]

Hall Closet... I now crown you [out the door + back in]



Determine what stays or moves in each closet. Here's an example:

Linen Closet [keeper of all things linens and memories]

linens- sheets + blankets –*sort + donate extras*
ribbons + some gift wrap items →*move to empty drawers in my room*
keepsakes-art work etc →*move some to the attic*
photo albums, yearbooks –*stay*
vacuum –*stay*
gift items → *move to empty drawers in my room/next to gift wrap.*
games → *move to kid's closet*
craft items-mine + some kids-*keep*
cookbooks-*stay*
extra office supplies –*stay, because there is no other better spot for them.*

3. PICK A CLOSET

A girl can only do so much at a time. Pick one closet. I only have 2 besides the bedroom closets so I quickly tackled the front **Hall Closet** then tackled big mama...the double-door **Linen Closet**.

THE PROCESS

1. LET'S MOVE IT-MOVE IT

- Pull out items you are moving to a new location. Place items in bins/baskets. These are your “goes elsewhere” bins.
Basket 1: goes to empty drawers in my room
Basket 2: items to go in the attic
- Sort + purge as you are pulling them out...using your SHE-itt kit + organizing signs or post-its.
- Now take these bins to their new homes. (don't take the time now to put these items away... just leave the basket and get back to the closet you are working on)

2. PULL IT ALL OUT + MAKE DECISIONS AS YOU GO

Pick a shelf and go! It's Sort + Purge time baby and all the “keeps” should be sorted into categories as you pull them out. *be sure to use your organizing signs + she-itt kit.

Things I want you to hear me saying as you are working on this!

- 1. NOPE... You don't need all those sheets + towels. Do you know there are families in Portland that have to share one towel... look at all these girlfriend. You only need 2 sets of sheets per bed. YES! Let that old bedding go- someone else will love it AND use it and NO your grown kids don't want it!*
- 2. Have you thought about putting your towels in each bedroom? Is there room under the kid's sinks? That's a great place to store an extra towel set and keep the beach towels. I even put the kid's bathing suits in the bottom bathroom drawer.*
- 3. Do you plan on finishing that craft project? Do you even like it anymore? Let it go.*



3. PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

Truly this is where function meets fabulous. Things to think about as you put the pieces back together...

1. Who is using this space? What shelves are easiest for the kids to access, me to access? How high can I reach? Can I adjust these shelves?

2. What should go where? for example:

- my closet has double doors. This side is for linens, the other side is for stuff.
- the kids can reach this shelf- I'll put their stuff there.
- this shelf is the strongest- yearbooks + photo albums will live here.

3. Do I need any containers to make this space work better?

4. Place it + Label it!

5. Inform your household of what goes where!

