

THE CLOTHES CLOSET

It happened yet again. You're late. You were supposed to be out the door 5 minutes ago but spent way too much time trying to figure out what to wear. Don't panic. We're going to whip your closet + your wardrobe into shape... Together we can do this sister. And yes, I will be honest and tell you when "your butt looks too big in those jeans".

approx. time for initial project: 1.5 hours + shopping time
maintain: seasonally

You'll need:

- To get in the mood ;)
- Download the closet organizing signs
- Have a "to buy" list close at hand
- Large garbage bags or shopping bags
- Matching hangers

PREP

LEARN YOUR WHAT TO WEAR RULES

Before tackling this project- accept that it will be full of emotional choices. As in "*Why yes, my butt has gotten larger, thank you very much.*" "*Why yes, I did spend an awful fortune on that item and it looks/feels/fits awful.*"

Required Reading: You will need to learn your personal "What to Wear" Rules.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/lifestyle/tv_and_radio/what_not_to_wear/whattowear_index.shtml

Get it? Got it? Good. Now go forth girlfriend and tackle the piles, the outdated, and the downright nubby.

DOWNLOAD ORGANIZING SIGNS

Download the closet organizing signs- [Download organizing signs clothes.pdf](#)

These little didys will give you guidance. Print out, pick the ones that work for you, then line 'em up. OH, did I mention you should make your bed first so that you have room to divide + conquer. Do this now...

THE TO BUY LIST

This is merely a piece of paper titled "TO BUY". You will need this to write down what you need to replace and trust me, you'll be replacing. Consider this: You are tackling your sock drawer. 80% of the socks are lonely *read* w/out partners. Forget match.com, you'll never find them all qualified mates. I suggest you start fresh. Purchase all the same color + brand. Yes- simple + boring. *see drawer tips below-

Add matching hangers to this list. I'm into wooden hangers, pant hangers with a grip or clips + the huggable type of hangers for your tops that seem to always slide off the regular hangers.

THE PROCESS

Some suggest you empty your entire closet on to the bed. I disagree- **WAY** to overwhelming. Way, way, waaay to overwhelming. I'm going to take an unconventional approach.

Let's play a little game first shall we.



1. Go find 5 shirts you don't like.
2. Go find 3 pairs of pants you know you will never wear again because they are "RULE" breakers.
3. Choose 2 sweaters that make you feel frumpy.
4. Head back in there and find 4 dresses or skirts that don't cut the mustard or accommodate your butt girth.
5. Last call. Find all suits and/or jackets that are stuck in a different era. Don't hesitate. Just do it.

NO you are not done, but YOU ARE on a roll! Let's go section by section.

Starting with... The Bottoms. These are the bread to my butter. If my britches don't fit, well then nothing is going to work.

PANTS + SKIRTS

1. Review your "What to Wear" Rules.
2. Try them all on. Only keep the ones that make you look + feel like a "TEN"... not a size ten but as in Bo Derek 10. Still lost because you are under 40...replace "TEN" w/ on "a scale of 1 to 10", ten being FABULOUS.

TOPS- I do know that your tops may fit differently depending on your bra. So pull out the best one of the bunch to lift + support the girls, then start making your decisions. Baby got bust? Go to Nordy's and have them fit you.

1. You can probably start on the left and work your way down the clothes rod pulling out tops that fall into these frustrating categories: faded, nubby, too short, roll up and bare your muffin top, too tight, too big.
2. If you pause on a shirt, pull that one out to try on. Then make your decision. If you like it but don't have the right bottoms to complete the ensemble- add that to your "To Buy" list.
3. If you are still waffling about whether to keep or toss, add it to the "decide later" pile and move on.

UNDERPINNINGS- These are the little tanks that typically you wear under something, usually not considered a 'stand-alone' type of item. You use them for layering- busty girls know about this-trust me ;). NOW go forth and rid yourselves of the roll up tanks-LOATHE THOSE. Then lose the out of date colors.

JACKETS- How are these looking? Do they accentuate your bod or make you look boxy? Turn sidewise and see what your profile looks like. Can you button it under your bosom to add curves?

DRESSES- Do your dresses curve + hug in the right places? Would some spanx help give you the smooth + firm look the dress is screaming for? Do you have the right shoes for the look you want... if not add it to the "to buy" list!

3. PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

Create a "uniformed" look

Hanging clothes allows you to easily see what you have. Try arranging your wardrobe into sections based on **when** you wear the item. I have nicknamed my sections: Mom-Uniform, Work, Uptown, Downtown. Workout. By creating these categories I am able to have ready-to-wear outfits for the various occasions. Some pieces cross over while others serve specific purposes. You can then determine how many outfits you need for each purpose. You really don't need 10 old pairs of sweats for painting. When was the last time you painted anyway?!



Another common method is hanging items in "like" categories. Then arranging by color. *For example: all bottoms together in a row starting with black, then denim, then brown and so on.* Looks good but think about which system better suits your personal style.

Tips for maximizing your storage

- Use a "double hang" rod for separates to get twice as much in the same amount of space.
- Get rid of empty hangers; they waste valuable space. Return wire hangers to dry cleaner for reuse.
- Use the proper hangers. Open-end slack hangers and skirt hangers with clips use less space lengthwise.
- Hanging sweater bags are great for folded tees + workout clothes.
- Use hooks to store robes, nightgowns, and "around the house" clothing.
- Plastic shoe bins make great drawer dividers for your underwear and socks
- Use the back of your door for hooks or racks to store accessories.
- Shoe cubbies can be used to maximize shoe storage.
- Store off-season or infrequently worn clothes and shoes high up on a shelf in boxes or under your bed.
*Label boxes Mine are labeled: "Snug" and "Too Big"

THE DRESSER

It's time to go through your drawers! I find this part to be completely liberating. The first time I tackled this I was able to completely empty out 6 drawers. I moved what clothes were left out of the dresser and into my walk in closet drawers. fyi- I believe that all of our clothes should be in one place/zone hence making getting dressed faster and easier. Here's the skinny on my drawer set up:

1. Top Drawer- sports bras + bathing suits
2. Socks- sport on the left, black on the right
3. Underwear- bras + panties
4. PJ's + lounge wear. Not folded but clean!

Your Drawers: When tackling your dresser start at the top drawer and work your way down. Think linear.

- Pull out the entire drawer and place it on your bed.
- Dump it.
- Wipe it out.
- Make Decisions
- Return 'the keepers' to the drawer or pile up on your bed if you are going move them to another location.

- Place newly organized + clean drawers back into the dresser.
- Label. This allows for others to put laundry away in the correct spot. A nifty location for the label is on the inside of the drawer where the drawer front attaches to the actual drawer. It's discreet if you prefer not to have labels on the outside.



The Wrap Up List

- Make the final decisions on those NEED TO DECIDE items.
- PUT the DONATION items in the trunk
- Take out the TRASH
- RETURN items to their proper homes
- SCHEDULE time to tackle your shopping list!

