

Get the *Closet of Your Dreams*

Perhaps inspired by the closets seen on popular home design television shows and websites, homeowners are beginning to look at their closets in a new light. Whether your closets are the size of a small bedroom or the size of a locker, here are a few tips to help you get the storage spaces you've always wanted.



- 1 Clear everything out of the closet,** and organize it into three piles: keep, donate or toss. By clearing the clutter and getting rid of items that are broken or underused, you'll have more room for items that you use and love.
- 2 Assess the space you have,** and decide how you want to organize and store your items. Discount department stores and specialty shops have a variety of baskets, shelves, hanging rods, drawer units, etc. to store your stuff.
- 3 Install lighting.** Great lighting will help you see everything that you have, from clothing to craft supplies. However, it's important to have a licensed electrician install your lighting so that you can be sure that it's up to code.
- 4 Don't be afraid to experiment with bold colour and patterns.** Since your items will fill most of the space, pops of bright colour or bold patterns will give the space some character. If your closet has a door, spruce it up with paint or change the hardware.



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- 5 **Take off the doors, and put up curtains.** Closets in older homes tend to be smaller than ones in newer homes. However, you can create the illusion of space by removing the door and putting up a curtain. Tie back the curtain when you want to see your items at once or close it when you don't. This idea is perfect for bedrooms, hobby rooms and playrooms.
- 6 **Install built-in custom cabinets.** Cabinets aren't just for kitchens anymore. In homes with small closets, floor-to-ceiling cabinets may give you the space you need, and they come in sizes that are perfect for the items you intend to store.
- 7 **Turn a wall into a closet.** Who says a closet has to be built into a room? Line up a dresser, hutch, cabinet, shelving, bookcase, etc. along a wall of the room. Mix and match the furniture to fit your needs. Paint it all the same colour to create the look of uniformity.
- 8 **Look for furniture with storage space,** such as an ottoman or bedframe with drawers under the bed, to keep the closet clutter in check.

Homeowners and Storage

Where do homeowners store things in their existing homes now?¹

Top areas for storage in *new* homes¹

1. Laundry rooms
2. Linen closets in bathrooms
3. Garage storage space
4. Walk-in pantry in the kitchen

Source: 1. IKEA Life at Home Survey, July 2012

