

## Blog: How to Organize a Closet

- While things are still in your closet, go through & weed out.
- Put all remaining similar items together, focusing on hanging length and also on piles.
- Note the width of hanging clothes (i.e., 6' short hanging shirts, 2' medium hanging pants, 1' long hanging dresses).
- Note the folded clothes in terms of 1' high piles (i.e., 4' sweaters and sweatshirts, 2' of jeans).
- Note # of shoes, hats, purses and anything else that you want in the closet.
- Add space to the above figures if you plan to grow your wardrobe.
- If you plan to re-do the closet system, empty the closet (keeping like items together).
- Remove old closet system if it's not workable with your current clothing situation.
- Measure your closet and note wall widths and heights as well as outlet locations, vents, attic pull-down stairs, etc.
- Patch the walls, prime the patched areas and re-paint the entire closet... use a color. It will look better than stark white and won't show every scuff mark. Increase your light bulb wattage or change the lighting if you think it's dark.
- Identify closet systems you like in store or online.
- See if that company has online design software, like <http://www.marthastewartclosets.com/>
- Design your closet or have someone like me <http://www.inorder2organize.com/> do it for you.
- Plan for often-used items with-in easy reach and lesser used items up high.
- Buy your new closet system.
- Bring a friend and a larger vehicle to the store because the products are heavy and often in large boxes.
- Choose the boxes that look like they were *not* dropped on the loading dock, or you will be furious when you get home.
- Also, avoid the heavily taped-up ones. Those are the ones someone returned that were damaged or missing parts, and have now been put back on the shelf.
- Find & mark the studs.
- Unpack what will seem to be about 70,000 pieces and arrange them in a way that makes each step simpler and less frustrating.
- Install your new closet.
- Stand back and admire it.
- Put all of items back in neatly. Take your time. It's silly to take all the time to re-do the closet only to randomly shove things back in. Many people tend to do this, which highlights the fact that organizing is about habits as much as it is about the storage space.
- Enjoy.

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*This closet organizing checklist developed and provided courtesy of:*



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