

# 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 color and patterns.** Since your items will fill most of the space, pops of bright color 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 color 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?<sup>1</sup>

Top areas for storage in *new* homes<sup>1</sup>

- 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

