

smart closet solutions

Straighten up your bedroom closet to make it easier to find what you need in the mornings and get out the door on time.

1 KEEP A BASKET STOCKED with all the essentials you'll need for a day at the pool or beach—or just a day on the town with the kids. Hang it on a hook (or two) in your closet and simply grab it and go when you need it.

2 SLIDING ROD ORGANIZERS create clearly defined sections in your closet. Organize clothes by item type first (putting all the pants together and all the shirts together, for example), then divide clothes by long sleeves and short sleeves or by dressy and casual, professional organizer Kathy Jenkins suggests. Then arrange clothes within each category by color. "It makes it much easier to see what you don't need to buy," Jenkins says.

3 LIDDED BINS and open baskets on the top shelf offer ideal storage space for off-season clothing and gear. Secure labels with hook-and-loop tape to make them easily adaptable. Avoid storing items here that you'll need to access regularly—especially if you need to pull out a stepladder to reach them.

4 SLANTED SHOE RACKS with a lip in the front keep shoes off the floor. Cubbies work well for summer shoes, such as flip-flops, but be careful about putting nicer shoes in them. "You usually can only get the right or left shoe in each space," Jenkins says. "If you try to shove both shoes in a cubby, they'll get ruined."



secret to success

"Arrange shoes so the heel is showing on one shoe and the toe is showing on the other. It creates a fraction more space and you can make better decisions about what to wear."

—Kathy Jenkins,
professional organizer



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FIND MORE ADVICE on how to organize your closet at BHG.com/ClosetTips.



secret to success

"Consider removing 50 percent of your children's toys from their rooms and storing them away. Then rotate these toys with existing toys every three to six months."

—Jennifer Ford Berry,
professional organizer

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"Do what I call the squint test. Look at the closet, squint, and see if there are any empty spaces. If there are, fill those spaces with shelves or hooks to maximize the space."

—Barbara Reich,
professional organizer



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