

Cleaning Out Your Closet

Follow these tips to overhaul your wardrobe and your fashion-forward thinking:

- 1) **Take every piece of clothing out of your closet and reorganize.**
- 2) **Set aside any items that need mending or need alterations into a FIX pile.**
This is a project for a different day.
- 3) **Identify items you're holding onto for only SENTIMENTAL reasons**, i.e. they are associated with a memory/trip, they were expensive, or you imagine a purpose for them in the future. Again, *better to asses on another day*.
- 4) **NOW comes the real work. You'll be making piles for: KEEP, CONSIGN, DONATE or TOSS.**
 - a) If something is from a fashionable label or a timeless/current style, you might have luck with consignment.
 - b) Otherwise donate it.
 - c) The toss pile is for items that are damaged, faded, worn and beyond saving.
- 5) **Try on each piece to see IF they fit and HOW they fit.** If an item no longer fits, put it in one of the DONATE/CONSIGN/TOSS piles (or FIX pile if you REALLY think it can be altered to fit).
- 6) **Estimate the last time you wore a questionable item.** If it's been more than 12 months, put it in one of the DONATE/CONSIGN/TOSS piles.
 - a) Pssst, start using the flipped hanger method – after you wear something, hang it back in your closet the opposite direction on the rack. That way, next time you go through your closet, you will know exactly what items you have not touched.
- 7) **Decide if you would buy this item again today if you saw it in a store.** If not, put it in one of the DONATE/CONSIGN/TOSS piles (do you see a pattern?)
- 8) **Of the clothes in your KEEP pile, sort by SEASON**, starting with the current season, and so on (Winter, Spring, etc). If you have a spare closet, put the opposite season in there once you're done.
- 9) **Next sort by group and hang as much as you can:** cardigans/light jackets, tops, tunics, dresses, pants, skirts, etc. Fold t-shirts, casual pants, leggings, workout clothes, etc. Fold sweaters with larger weaves to prevent stretching.
- 10) **Sort each hanging group by length and color.**
- 11) **You're almost done! Utilize all of your closet space!** Use dividers on shelves, hanging racks, and the space below your clothing for shoes, accessories, and more.