



De-CLUTTER *your* CLOSET *for* FALL

By KIM APPELT

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DARREN HULL

There is nothing worse than not being able to find your clothes in your closet when you're getting dressed.

A clean, well-organized wardrobe—instead of a confusing, jumbled mess of clothes and accessories—means you'll be able to find what you need and pick out outfits on busy mornings. The task of de-cluttering your wardrobe can be very overwhelming.

If you can, hiring a stylist with a fresh eye can really cut down on the time it takes you to re-vamp your closet. If that is not a realistic option for you, here are a few tips to get you on the right track.

Step #1: Get Rid Of Your Old Clothes

It might not be easy, but tossing out or donating old clothes is the key to making room in your closet for your latest finds!! The rule of thumb I use for my clients is, if you haven't worn it in the last year, it's out. If it is two sizes too big or small, forget it... get rid of it. It's time to buy new clothes. Also, is it stained or pilling? If it is... it's not classy to be walking around like that. Dump it or donate it. Another question to ask yourself... would I buy this now?

Step #3: Start Organizing

Anyone who has ever worked with me knows the drill. The way I do a closet clean is that everything comes out of the closet and goes onto the bed. Then we put the pieces back one-by-one on new hangers.

TOPS

If you have the space to hang all your tops, hang them all. You'll wear more of your tops if you can see them. I colour group them. I do from dark to light and short-sleeved to long-sleeved.

SWEATERS

Fold the very heavy sweaters so they don't lose shape on the hanger. Colour-code your sweaters and also by weight, and use cubbies if you can. If you want to get really into it, use a sweater folding board to make perfect folds. You can find folding boards at HomeSense and Home Outfitters.

JEANS

I personally organize my clients' jeans by colour, and fold them. However, hanging jeans by the hem can also be a great solution. It is really your preference and also based on what space you have available. Again, group them by colour and style if you can. For example, I have all of my skinny jeans hanging together from light to dark. Next, I have the boyfriend jeans, light to dark... you get the idea.

PANTS / SKIRTS / SHORTS

Hang these. It's best to spend some money on good hangers that leave less of a mark. You can also fold the sides of the skirt and clip them there. Again, hang by length from short to long and group according to colour.

That way, if you are looking for a short white skirt, for example, you just flip through your short white skirt section and find the best one for that top instead of trying to go through all the skirts and getting distracted.

DRESSES

I prefer to hang dresses by colour, season and length in that order. So if you have a bunch of red dresses, I start with the ones in season and hang accordingly and put the longer ones at the end of the line. This is also a personal choice. I usually start with strapless and move to long-sleeved.

Never leave your dresses, or any other clothes, in dry cleaning or plastic garment bags. The chemicals from dry cleaning attack the fibres of your clothing and cause damage.

BAGS / SCARVES / HATS

I like to line purses up on the top of the closet or anywhere you can see them. It's hard to change bags if you can't see them. I also have a row of hooks on one wall of my closet and my three or four main purses hang there for easy swapping.

Scarves folded in piles by colour and material works best, and it makes it easy to pull one out without ruining the organization of the rest.

As for hats, I like to have them on display so that you can grab them quickly.

SHOES

I like to organize shoes by colour and style. Hide your flip flops, they don't need a display... you will always find those.

LINGERIE

Most of the time lingerie is in a drawer all jumbled up. If you can, try to separate into two different drawers for tops and bottoms. For a luxe touch, it's nice to line these drawers and add little scent sachets. You can find these at any lingerie boutique.

JEWELRY

I love a built-in drawer in the closet or dresser to keep things neat and uncluttered. If you don't have that option, hanging necklaces and earrings is a great way to see what you have.

Hope this guide helps you get ready for an amazing fall and winter season! Happy cleaning!

Kim xo