

# Closet Control

*Learn how to take your closet from chaotic clutter to boutique chic with tips from organization guru Maryanne Macdonald.*

*by Marie Francis and Emerson Patrick*

**Before**



## After

## GET STARTED

An over-the-door hanger with hooks neatly hangs purses, belts, hats, and scarves.

1. Divide and conquer—take everything out of your closet and separate your clothes into piles according to style: pants, skirts, shirts, sweaters, etc.

## SORT IT OUT

Ice trays work great for keeping jewelry separated and easily accessible.

## TIPS

- Don't keep your clothes in plastic bags—they need to breathe to keep the fabric at its best.
- The best hangers are plastic with swivel heads (they help keep your clothes' shape).
- Fold your bulky sweaters and sweatshirts to save space.

## HANG IT UP

2. Begin hanging your clothes, starting with tops. Because you dress top to bottom, you should view your clothes the same way. Hang shirts and sweaters above skirts and pants.

3. Now arrange your clothing by color. Group all pink shirts together, all blue pants together, and so on. It will make it easier to match outfits.

# BOX IT UP



Before

4. Box your shoes in clear plastic containers—they'll be hard to misplace. And put rolled-up magazines in your boots to keep them upright.



After

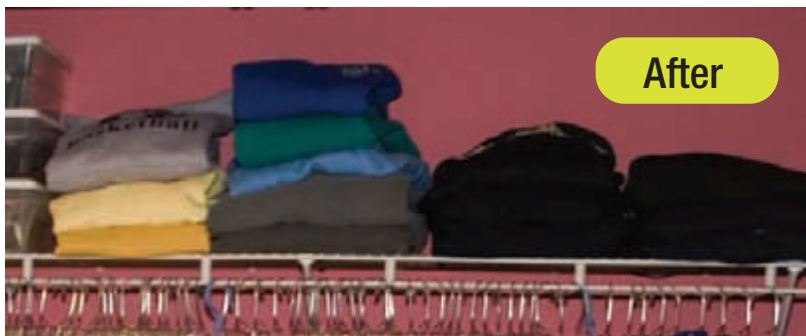
5. Hang the clothes you've worn in the opposite direction of the ones you haven't. Because you usually only wear 20 percent of the clothes in your closet, this will keep you from getting in a wardrobe rut.

6. Be aware of what you're not wearing. After three to six months, you'll be able to see the clothing that's never left the hanger. Toss those unworn clothes in order to clear room for new duds.

# WEED IT OUT



Before



After

## TIP

To make your closet more light friendly and to show the true color of your clothes, change your light bulb to its brightest wattage, invest in rope lights, or consider repainting so the color of your closet won't clash with your clothes. (*We suggest Sherwin Williams' French Vanilla.*)

Many thanks to Maryanne Macdonald for our *Justine* closet makeover. For more organizational tips, visit her website at [organizebydesign.biz](http://organizebydesign.biz) or log on to [justinemagazine.com](http://justinemagazine.com) to ask her questions.