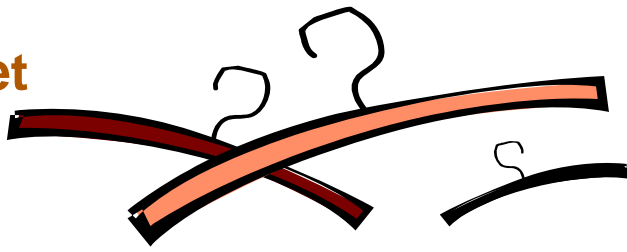




# Cut Closet Clutter



Professional experts say we wear only 20 percent of our clothes 80 percent of the time, which means much of what's in our closet is rarely used. If you have to dig through or climb over mounds of clothes to find what you're looking for, it may be time to clear out and reorganize. Here are some suggestions from closet design pros.

- \* Empty the closet of everything, so you can see what you have. Then sort your clothes into three piles: keep, toss and donate. If you have a hard time discarding items, have a friend help you or hire a professional organizer.
- \* Keep the items you wear often. Toss the items that are ripped, stained or damaged. If you haven't worn something in at least a year and it's still wearable, donate it. Donating items to your favorite charity not only makes you feel good, it might get you a tax break.
- \* Remove the discarded items immediately so you won't be tempted to put them back in the closet.
- \* Sort the remaining clothes by type (dresses, slacks, shirts, etc.). It might also help to sort by color and by how often you wear things.
- \* Scrub the inside of the closet with soap and water. Then install shelves, racks and containers to organize the remaining clothes, so all similar items are stored together.

Once your closets are neat and organized, you won't mind if anyone asks to peak inside.

## \* DID YOU KNOW

According to the Insurance Information Institute, in the event of a fire or other disaster, a current, detailed **home inventory** can help you obtain enough insurance to replace the things you own, get claims settled faster, and substantiate any losses on your tax return.



## Experience You Can Count On

The decision to buy or sell a home is fraught with personal choices and emotions. Having a trusted, experienced agent to guide you through the transaction can ease your mind, but do you know if you've found the right one?

Many agents are eager to work with you, but only an agent who is a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) can provide the expertise to guide you through the transaction. A CRS is a proven leader in residential real estate, accounting for only four percent of all agents in the country. CRS agents have a high volume of transactions and advanced training in business planning, real estate investing, marketing and technology. A CRS also must maintain membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and abide by its Code of Ethics. With so much at stake in the fast-paced, competitive real estate market, it makes sense to work with a CRS agent.

## fast fact >> >> >> >> >>



Nearly 30 percent of home electrical-wiring fires can be traced to the misuse of electric cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance and running the cords under rugs or through high traffic areas.

Source: [InsWeb.com](http://InsWeb.com)



**Do you know someone who is thinking about buying or selling a home? Please mention my name.**

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