

A walk-in closet with white built-in shelving and hanging rods. The closet is filled with various clothing items, including shirts, dresses, and jackets, all neatly organized. There are also shelves with folded clothes, hats, and shoes. A central area features a white vanity with a mirror and drawers. The walls are painted a warm orange color, and the floor is dark wood.

SIMPLIFY. ORGANIZE. ENJOY.

WALK-IN CLOSETS

TIPS FOR A MORE ORGANIZED CLOSET



When building a home or designing a custom closet, it can often be difficult to anticipate how much storage you are really going to need. If you are lucky enough to have a walk-in closet, there are several key areas of design, organization, and functionality that you will want to keep in mind. We have compiled some of our best tips on what to consider for storage options, layout, and construction in this *Custom Walk-In Closet Construction Guide*.

In the following pages, we will discuss every aspect of good walk-in closet design including lighting, outlet placement, hampers, custom vanities, and more. Having a good idea of what you want your walk-in closet to look like will help your designer to plan, construct, and execute the space you have visualized.

FIRST...

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There are 5 key points to consider when designing a custom walk-in closet.

Habits

Do you tend to hang your shorts/pants or fold them in drawers? Do you wear business clothes which typically require more hanging space than casual clothing? Do you have a set of go-to accessories, or do you wear your entire collection evenly?

Ask yourself some critical questions about your daily outfits. The answers to these questions will help your designer plan a closet that is not only visually attractive, but efficient as well.

Planning

Housing cable boxes, routers, alarm systems, other electrical equipment and plumbing in the closet is a common practice. It is important to have a plan for your storage before allowing an electrician or plumber to work in your closet. Make sure that they are mindful of your vision.

Value

When building a custom walk-in closet, consider how the features in the closet will improve or detract from your home's resale value. Typically, a custom closet will help sell your home. However, the design should not be so unique that a future resident would not be able to use it.



Contractor

Before contemplating the design of your dream closet, make sure that you contract a reputable, licensed, and insured closet company. Request references if you need further validation about the quality of services they provide.

Efficiency

Whether you enjoy spending time in your closet putting together the perfect outfit or you prefer to take as little time as possible to get dressed, your closet needs to be functional so you can see what is in your wardrobe and easily access items you use regularly.

8 TIPS FOR CLOSET CONSTRUCTION

More than likely, you will be enlisting the help of a professional contractor to turn your bare-bones, walk-in closet into something fit to your specifications. While your contractor may not involve you in the more technical details of the design, it is imperative you make sure that several key areas are discussed. The topics listed on the next page may seem trivial, but they can mean the difference between complete satisfaction and buyer's remorse. Here is our list of the most critical points to discuss before you start closet construction.





1. Entrance Doors

Do you want your closet door to swing open to reveal your clothing paradise? Do you prefer a sliding mirror door as the gateway to your garment heaven? The entrance doors you choose for your walk-in closet are just as important as the shelving, layout, and storage within, and will depend on how much space you have.

2. Closet Shape

The types of shelving that you select will depend on the shape of your closet. Most closet layouts are pretty straight forward, but there are uniquely shaped closets that can present challenges. Closet corners can also be tricky. Your wardrobe will ultimately dictate whether a traditional "square hanging" or striking "curved hanging" will serve as a more functional means of organization.

3. Custom Vanity

If space permits, a custom-made vanity is a classy, elegant, and functional addition to any walk-in closet. One exciting feature of custom-made vanities is a hot hair appliance drawer. Your hair dryer, curling iron, and blow dryer stay plugged in with their own power strip. They can even be returned to the drawer while hot, as these drawers are lined with the same metal material found in salon drawers. Plan for extra storage overhead for makeup, hair accessories, and other beauty items.

4. Islands

By providing an open counter surface and multiple drawers, islands are a practical use of space for large closets. Islands are also visually appealing with various options for tops, such as marble, quartz or wood, and decorative drawer pulls.

5. Windows and Skylights

A window or skylight can be a truly breathtaking factor of your walk-in closet design. The natural light that these features provide can transform the ambiance of the space and save energy during daylight hours. You will want to place these windows high so as not to compromise valuable wall space. You will also want to install adequate lighting options for the evening and occasional overcast day.

6. Hanging Sections

Most closets should incorporate at least one small section for long-hanging items. Double-hanging sections are more efficient for pants and shirts. In the case of windows or angled ceilings, a single-hanging section installed below makes good use of odd spaces.

7. Flooring

Only a few people will see the floor of your closet, but it is nonetheless an important element of your walk-in closet design. Because you will usually be barefoot when standing in your closet, carpet might be a good option. Install flooring before constructing your closet so the flooring material does not have to be cut around the panels.

8. Outlets

The most overlooked aspect of closet design can transform your walk-in closet into a headache or heaven. Outlets are handy in a closet (e.g. for ironing, charging electronic devices, etc.). Consider adding, moving, or designing around existing outlets.

ACCESORIES



The perfect walk-in closet is functional, organized and accessorized. From mirrors to ironing boards to boot hangers, talk with your contractor about the following options for turning your walk-in closet into something truly spectacular.





Pants Rack

A pants rack is perfect for working professionals who have a large number of slacks that need to be hung. Pants racks slide out for easy access and prevent pants from becoming jumbled. The rods are non-slip to keep pants in place and wrinkle-free.

Mirrors

No great closet is complete without a mirror. Mirrors can be mounted on the closet door, on the wall, or even inside a wardrobe door. There are also slide-out mirrors that swivel for a better angle, freestanding mirrors, and mirror cabinets that open to reveal hidden jewelry storage. If you have the space, consider a three-way mirror in the corner.

Ironing Board

Instead of doing your ironing in the laundry room, why not consider ironing your clothes in the room where they will be hung? If space allows, a swivel or fold-down ironing board can be a great addition to a custom-made closet. Make sure there is an outlet nearby where you will be storing your ironing board as well as enough space for the board to be at an elevated height.

Hampers

One alternative to keeping your dirty laundry in plain view is a concealed hamper. Adding a removable basket to your concealed door hamper provides you with a way to transport your clothes to and from the laundry room with ease.

Shoes

If you have a vast collection of footwear, determining how much space you will need to accommodate your shoes is an important step of the closet designing process. Custom-sized cubbies, slanted shelves, flat shelves, and adjustable shelves are just a few of the options for shoe organization and storage. Boots can even be stored on specialized boot hangers.

CLOSET ORGANIZING TIPS

Decluttering Your Life

Moving into a new house or upgrading your current closet space is an opportunity to assess what to keep, what to throw out, what to donate and what to sell. To start, take everything out of your closet and sort your objects into three or four piles:

1. Keep It

When going through your entire closet, you may be pleasantly surprised to find items you thought were lost among other treasures.

2. Toss It

We often keep worn-out clothing just by habit. A closet overhaul will reveal which clothes are too damaged to be donated or sold. There are, however, options for clothes that cannot be repaired, including T-Shirt quilts or other upcycling projects. Take a look through crafting websites for some ideas on repurposing old clothes that would otherwise be thrown out.

3. Consign It

Consignment stores are the perfect option for clothes that no longer fit, but are in good condition. Recover some of the cost of the clothes you bought years ago, but no longer fit, or that you no longer wear.

4. Donate It

You should consider donating your clothing to those in need. There are plenty of charities, homeless shelters and other non-profits that are always in need of garments.



If you are not sure about which of these categories a particular piece of clothing fits into, try this helpful trick: Turn all of your clothing hangers in one direction. Every time you use a garment, turn the clothing hanger the other way. After 30 days, you will have a good idea of what you use and what you do not use on a regular basis.

STAYING ORGANIZED AFTER YOUR CLOSET MAKEOVER

The items that you use the most often should always be easily accessible at the front of your closet. Try making a list of what you use every day, then use this list as a map for your closet. Sentimental clothing items or items that are not worn very often, such as wedding dresses, tuxedos, bridesmaid's dresses, etc., should be kept in a guest closet or other storage area. Everyday clothing, gym outfits, and other frequently used garments should be the easiest to reach.



Seasonality

Switch out your wardrobe as the seasons change. Snow jackets, peat coats, sweaters, and other winter clothing items obviously require more space than shorts and tank tops. This type of sorting also improves the overall organization of your closet; you will not have to sift through winter clothes during the middle of the summer.

Small Item Organization

Small items, such as jewelry, scarves, hair accessories, and others, can be stored in several ways. See-through wire baskets, segmented jewelry drawers, hooks, stands and more will keep your favorite accent pieces catalogued and untangled.

Smart Storage

Instead of keeping your fashionable suitcases in the garage, why not repurpose them to hold blankets, sheets, and other bulky items? Utilizing smart storage practices, such as overhead shelving and below-bed storage, will free up space in your closet.

Color Coding

Color coding is a great strategy for finding the clothes you need in a hurry. In keeping with seasonality, color code your fall/winter wardrobe and spring/summer wardrobe. Color coding accessories and shoes will help you to pull together that perfect outfit in no time.

