



HOW AND WHY YOU SHOULD ORGANIZE YOUR CLOSET NOW

BY LAURA HINE

If your bedroom closet is overstuffed with clothes, shoes and accessories, you probably know you should tackle a closet purge.

Unlike cleaning out a hall closet, your bedroom closet is personal and emotional, filled with secrets, dreams and regrets, so most of us need a psychological intervention as much as an organizational one. Start with the “why,” and once you have some motivation, we have ideas on how to get help and how to get going.

Why Clean Out Your Closet?

1. YOU'LL REDUCE YOUR DAILY FRUSTRATION LEVEL.

“If everything in your closet is something you actually want to wear, and you like how you look in each piece, you really streamline your morning,” says **Linda Goldman**, owner of **Altogether Organized** (altogetherorganized.com) and a Certified Professional Organizer who lives in Highland Park.

2. YOU CAN MAKE SOME MONEY.

Corri McFadden's company **eDrop-Off**, which has two locations in Chicago, is one of the largest online-luxury consignment sellers in the country. They sell more than 2,500 items a week, and according to McFadden, if you're not wearing that Chanel jacket or Fendi bag, you can turn it into cash.

3. YOUR OUTFITS WILL LOOK FRESHER.

McFadden finds that clients with too much stuff tend to wear the first 12 pieces they see. If you get

rid of the ill-fitting, no-longer-loved and out-of-style pieces that are hogging all the room, you'll be able to see and wear a lot more of your clothes.

4. YOU'LL LET GO OF THE GUILT.

Both McFadden and Goldman have seen time and again clients holding onto a piece “because it was expensive.” But if you beat yourself up every time you open your closet, and see those très chic boots that make you want to cut your foot off because they're so uncomfortable, it's time to let them go. Out of sight, out of mind.

5. YOUR CLOSET WILL MATCH YOUR LIFESTYLE.

Goldman gently helps clients let go of pieces that no longer work with their lives—like the 20 power suits a full-time mom had a hard time parting with even though she admitted she'd never wear them again. Goldman often suggests taking a photo or storing one suit in an out-of-the-way closet, but not in your primary space.