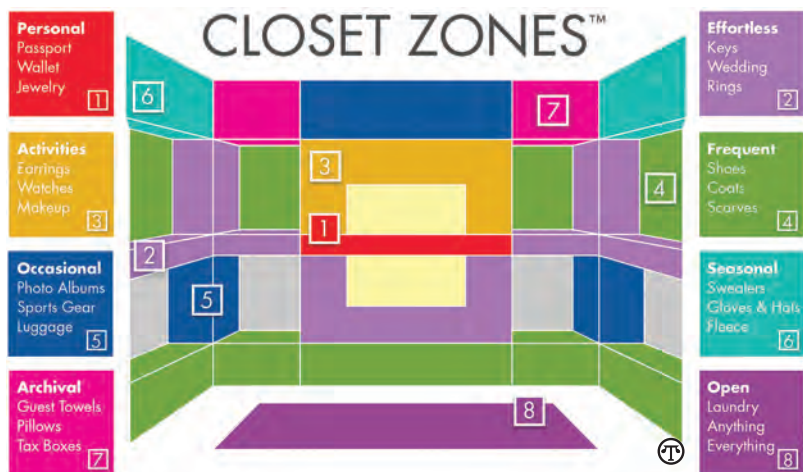


Making Life Easier

Get In The Zone



Even if you don't have a spacious walk-in closet like the one pictured here, you can still use the basic principle. Keep frequently used items front and center, with accessories organized within hand's reach and rarely used items tucked neatly in back.

(NAPSA)—You may be better able to win the race for (storage) space with your closet, if you heed a few hints.

Although everyone's closet storage dilemmas vary, a systematic method of organizing your stuff can lead to the highest level of efficiency. Besides, when your closet is clutter free, your mornings can run more smoothly, giving you the right mind-set to tackle the day.

- As you begin to sort through the contents of your closet, remember the 80/20 rule: You wear 20 percent of your clothes 80 percent of the time. The rest just takes up valuable, reachable space.

- Arrange your collection by category, grouping shirts, pants, suits, dresses and so on. Depending on the nature of your wardrobe, you can also separate casual clothes from those you wear to work or on special occasions.

- Add a center tower of shelving on each wall for frequently used items. It creates a place for folded things such as T-shirts, sweaters and denim.

- Pants, shirts and dresses can be kept on hang rods, making them easier to access.

- Upper storage shelving (above the highest hanging rod) can be for seasonal clothes you use less often as well as pieces you rarely use at all.

- Personal and activity items such as your everyday watch, wedding ring, wallet, keys and phone can stay within arm's reach on a waist-level shelf or drawer.

- Shoes worn most often should be the easiest to reach. Keep special party shoes or rarely used running shoes on the floor or way up high.

- When space in other areas of the home is tight, keep luggage and other items tucked away in your walk-in. These occasional items can be hidden away and pulled out when you need them.

- Don't underestimate the power of closet accessories. Closet systems, like those from Closet-Maid®, can be outfitted with drawers, doors, cubbies, jewelry trays and pullout rods, putting every last inch of space to work. To learn more, go to www.closetmaid.com.