



Organization for the New Year

Want to get a hold of your life?
Start by getting organized.
Here are some ideas to help.

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In this Issue:

Toys Where do all the toys go after the holidays are over? Kids will tell you they plan to play with them all, but do they?

Closets Getting closets organized provides a sense of reward once everything is done. First, you have to start.

History Find out about the start of Creative Closets and the Closet Lady.



Lehigh Valley, PA
(610) 433-0933
www.creativeclosets.com



“A child’s appetite for new toys appeal to the desire for ownership and appropriation: the appeal of toys comes to lie not in their use but in their status as possessions.”

- Christopher Lasch

Organizing All Those Toys

Now that the holidays are over and your children have added to their already large toy collection, the age-old question remains: “Where do we put all these toys?” Installing a shelf around the bedroom perimeter is a great way to keep items organized and off the floor while at the same time, showcasing the toys. Add some track lighting to really highlight the pieces. This can be especially appealing if your child has a “collection” of a particular plaything such as

dolls, models or even snow globes. Stuffed animals can be hung from wall hooks or stored in racks installed on the inside of closet doors. These solutions will keep toys organized, bedrooms and play areas clutter-free, and still provide easy access for your children to reach their beloved items.



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Discover that dress you forgot you had, your favorite sweater, the pair of shoes you couldn't find. Read our tips.

Closet Organization – Reap the Reward

One of the most frequently asked questions about closet organization especially this time of year is “How to get started.” Before you can determine what your space and design requirements are you need to “evaluate your inventory.” In the case of a bedroom closet, inventory includes such items as clothes, shoes and accessories; and those items no longer used should be discarded. The old rule of thumb “if you haven't worn it in two years, get rid of it,” still holds true today and is a good starting place.

Create 3 piles: keep, give-away and throw-away.

Immediately bag and discard the give and throw-away items. In addition to no longer being frustrated with your cluttered closet, you will have a sense of satisfaction from donating your gently used items to someone in need.

To help organize your remaining items, begin by calculating the space taken up by each type of clothing. For example, count the number of long hanging garments, such as dresses, coats and pants hung by the cuff, and multiply that number by 2. Do the same with short hanging items – suits, skirts and slacks folded over the hanger.

These numbers represent the inches of hanging space you will need in your closet. For shoes, measure the width of a pair and multiply that number by the number of pairs of shoes you will be storing. Continue this process for any other items you'd like to store in your closet such as sweaters and purses. Once you complete this exercise, measure the walls of your closet and sketch the interior to include all of the items based on your calculations. Don't forget to use the back of the door(s) for extra storage. Contact us for a free consultation.



Ellyn G. Elstein

Created to improve the lives of clients through organization, Creative Closets has provided storage solutions throughout Eastern Pennsylvania and North and Central New Jersey since 1983. The mission of Creative Closets is “to help homeowners and businesses become more organized and more efficient by diagnosing and satisfying their specific needs with award-winning custom-designed and

custom-built organization systems that exceed their expectations.” When established nearly 30 years ago, Creative Closets was the first closet organizing company in the Lehigh Valley. The passionate pursuit of excellence in providing personal attention, quality materials and expert craftsmanship remains the foundation of Creative Closets success today.

Ellyn G. Elstein, *The Closet Lady*®