

# My Clothing Storage Area

## (Idea Guide for Early Teens 4-H Home Improvement Project)

Every boy or girl wants a compact, comfortable, convenient, and beautiful bedroom. Proper storage facilities help make this possible, so there will be "a place for everything and everything in its place."

Space is needed to store clothing, accessories, and other personal possessions. For these items, well-arranged closets, chests of drawers, and storage nooks should be provided.

Good storage has much to do with one's appearance and poise. Girls and boys who keep their clothes in order will have a neat appearance. Clothes will look better and last longer.

Requirements for a "Storage Area" project are found in "Wake Up! Furnish an Area," a 4-H Home Improvement Project Manual and Record Book for Early Teens.

### Making Closets Up-to-Date

All bedrooms should have a clothes closet. The musty, dark, space-wasting closets in many older houses should be improved to make them compact, light and airy. Sturdy racks, rods and shelves may be added easily and inexpensively.

### Closet Requirements

Different types of clothing are usually kept in separate groups according to size, length, and material. This makes it possible to set up general standards for the various kinds of storage needed. For example, clothes on hangers, even heavy coats, can be hung in a closet 24 inches deep. So 24 inches is the minimum depth recommended for storage areas in which clothes will be hung. A 12-inch shelf will hold most hats, folded garments, shoes, and clothing accessories, but the best widths for closets and shelves depend on individual needs. However, one recommendation is that bedroom closets ought to have at least 48 inches of rod space.

Closets should be well-built and should have doors. Walls should be sealed, papered, or painted.

Light-colored walls are best for closets, since they help reflect the light to the farthest corners—making them brighter and more pleasant to use. Choose a paint that is washable and will not rub off on clothes stored. The walls should be

washed two or three times a year, when you put away each past season's clothing. Choose a color that will harmonize with the other furnishings in your room.

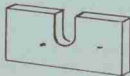
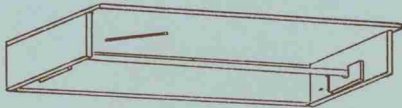
A smooth, easy-to-care-for floor is preferred. Floors should be waxed to make them easy to clean. Rough, splintery floors may be painted with deck enamel or, better still, covered with linoleum. Linoleum prevents dust from seeping up through the cracks and getting on the clothes.

To help keep things in order and to use all the space, closets built with divisions are an advantage. Size and shape are the two most important factors to consider when making a division plan. Modern closets have sturdy, adjustable rods for clothes of various lengths, shelves for hat boxes and other storage, shoe racks or bags, laundry bag or hamper for soiled clothes, and a shelf or small chest for clothing not on hangers. A small closet well-equipped and fitted is better than a large one that is poorly planned.

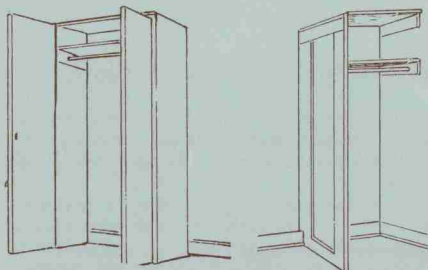
### Closets You Can Make

Here are suggestions for making a closet if you do not have one. There are many arrangements that you may use in building a closet, but only a few are suggested here.

*Build a shelf and anchor it to a corner of the room.* Prepare blocks of wood (as shown) to hold your rod. Make a gathered or pleated curtain of plastic or preshrunk cotton fabric and hang from or under the edge of the shelf.



*Plywood closets.* A convenient closet may be built of fir plywood. The large sheets go up fast and make a neat job. Closet plans can usually be obtained from the hardware stores or lumber dealers from whom the plywood is bought.



A Plywood closet placed in the corner of a room. (Add wood door or fabric to protect clothing.)

#### Closet Rods

The size of clothes rods varies, depending on how you want to use them. If you're adding rods as a part of your project, think about these four things:

1. Length. The length will determine the diameter of the rod you will use.
2. Weight the rod must carry. A smaller rod can be used if you plan to hang only light articles. For heavy coats and such you must use a heavier rod.
3. Diameter of the rod. Plan the size of the rod so your coat hangers will slide easily on it. Coat hangers vary, so it's best to measure several types.
4. Types of rods—

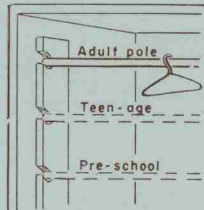
Galvanized pipe:

For a 3-foot length, use a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipe.

For a 4-foot length, use a 1-inch pipe.

Wooden doweling:

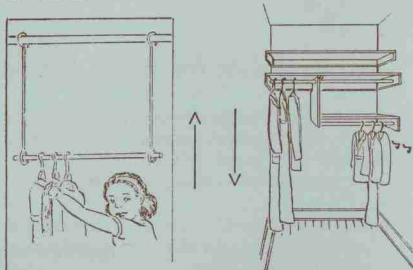
1 to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch diameter (outside measurement).



Adjustable Clothes Rod—In this picture you can see that hanging rods can be adjusted as you grow. Plan a height that is convenient for the person using it.

#### Junior Clothes Rod

For small children, suspend a rod 23 inches from grown-up level. It is easy for children to hang up their own clothing with this rod, and, with short garments hanging above, closet space is doubled.

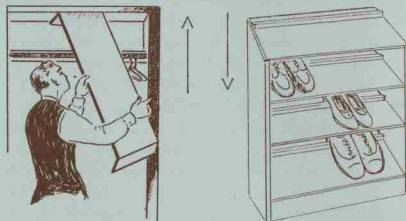


*Use space effectively.* Plan tall spaces for long garments and shorter spaces for shirts, skirts, jackets, and blouses. The sketch shows a shelf added below the standard rod and shelf. This gives usable storage space above the floor where dust will be less likely to harm articles.

For a young man, there should be a tall space for an overcoat, bathrobe, and trousers (if hung by cuff). Shorter spaces are sufficient for jackets and folded trousers.

#### Shelves for Closets

To use "waste space" on your closet shelf, make a stepshelf. This may be as long as the entire shelf, as shown in drawing, or it can be shorter, wider, or narrower, depending on your needs.



#### Space Requirements for Shoes

Shelf for Men

9" wide

13" deep

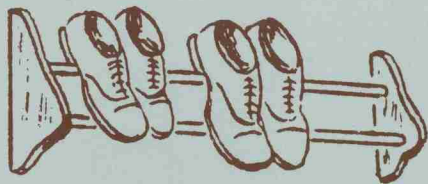
$5\frac{1}{2}$ " high

Shelf for Women

7" wide

10" deep

$7\frac{1}{2}$ " high



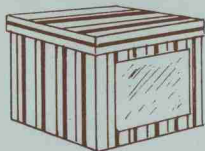
**Shoe Storage:** Shoe racks can be used when wall space is available inside the closet. Also, plastic or fabric shoe bags can be hung on the door.

### Closet Accessories and Fittings

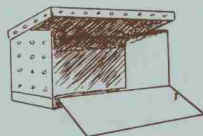
Garment bags, shoe bags, hat boxes, laundry bags, and other boxes for storage are usually considered closet accessories. They are necessary to give protection to the articles and to keep clothes neatly separated. You can easily find the right container for each type of clothing if you have correctly planned your fittings. Whether you buy ready-made accessories or make them yourself, try to keep in mind a definite color plan and design. Choose a fabric that will harmonize with the color scheme of your room. Select simple bindings and trimmings that are easy to clean; ruffles tend to collect dust.

Save hat, shoe, and suit boxes. These may be painted, covered with paper or material, and used in your closet. It is a good idea to label each container. Or, a sweater, for example, may be pictured on the outside of a sweater box.

**Hat Boxes** may be covered with adhesive-backed plastic materials, wallpaper, fabrics, or painted to blend with your planned color scheme. Or you can buy them ready made. Note from the pictures that they are all easy to see into; and the hats can be removed easily. Covered boxes protect your hats from dust and soil. Take care not to crush hats in the boxes.



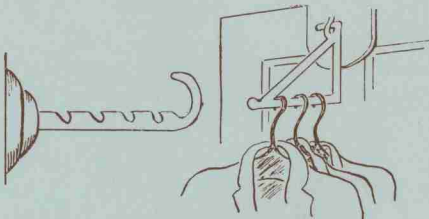
Front and top open.



A plastic "window" lets you see inside.

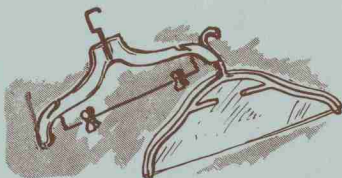
**Garment Bags** protect clothing against dust and provide excellent storage for out-of-season clothing. They can be purchased or made at home. They can hold up to six garments.

### Hangers:

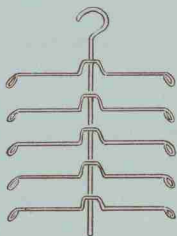


This is a door hanger for four garments.

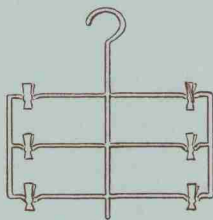
This is a portable door hanger.



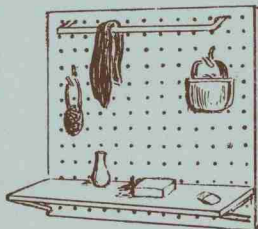
Here are two common types of garment hangers. The top one is a suit or dress hanger (notice the notches for gown or dress straps). The other hanger comes with a plastic cover to protect top of a coat (where most dust would settle).



This rack holds five blouses, but takes only the space required for one.

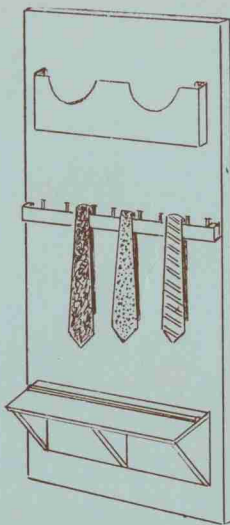


This hanger takes three skirts.

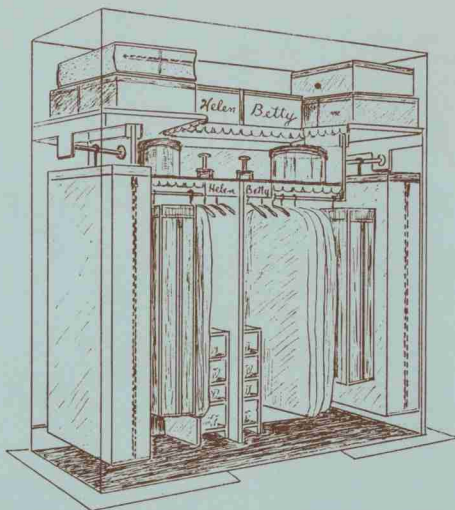


Perforated hardboard may be added to closets or other walls for convenient storage. You can buy many adjustable fixtures to use with this board.





Boys, this is for you. This unit fits on the closet door and has racks for hats, ties and shoes.



A Closet Planned for Two—This closet is planned for two girls. (Two boys may share in same way.) Garments are stored in duplicate garment bags. Boxes are marked by name. Each side has a complete set of accessories—hat boxes, hat racks, shoe boxes, and blanket cases.

### How To Plan Storage For Your Room

- Make a list of things that need to be stored in your room.
- Sort out things not often used. Store these elsewhere or discard them.
- Store articles near the place they are used.
- Store together similar items or articles of similar use.
- Store frequently used items within easy reach.
- Use all available storage spaces before building any new ones. Try to arrange flexible spaces that can be changed easily for new uses.
- Plan built-ins or portable storage if all available space is being used.
- See that storage space has good lighting and ventilation.
- Plan storage unit for easy cleaning.
- Try to store each item in an appropriate place.
- For major work on closet space, check with your leader for additional suggestions and references.

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