

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A full-length mirror
- Space for placing clothing into piles as you sort them:
 - Donate
 - Repair/Clean
 - Toss
- A few uninterrupted hours
- Optional: A kind, but honest friend

BEFORE YOU HEAD INTO THE CLOSET

Think about your answers to these questions

- How would you describe your personal style? If you're not sure, then take time to peruse some fashion magazines and tear out pictures that appeal to you to get a sense of your style.
- How would you describe your lifestyle? For example, do you work in a corporate environment? Have a home business? Meet with clients regularly? Are you a stay-at-home mom? Are you more casual? Or more buttoned up? How do you spend your leisure time?
- What are your favorite and least favorite aspects of your figure? Do you have a great pair of legs? Toned arms? A beautiful décolletage? A slim waist? Your goal is to highlight the positives, and minimize or camouflage any aspects of your figure that are not your favorites.

THE AUDIT

First things first

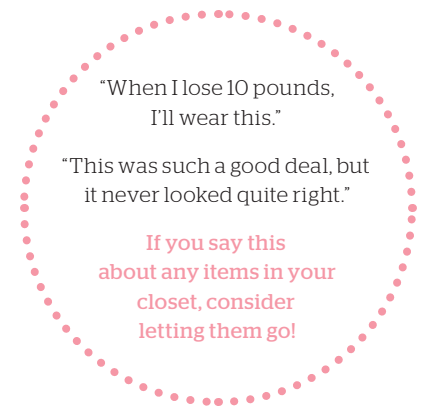
- Focus on just one season, rather than your entire wardrobe.
- Hang like items together, i.e., jackets, blouses, skirts, and pants.
- Begin weeding by quickly removing anything that's worn out, stained, outdated, torn, needs repairs, doesn't fit well, doesn't feel good on, or just doesn't work for your lifestyle.
- Place weeded out items in appropriate piles.

Try on each remaining item and assess by asking yourself :

- Do I love it?
- Does it fit?
- Is it flattering on me?
- Is the color good for my skin tone?
- Is it age-appropriate?
- Is it my style?
- Does it fit in my lifestyle?
- Does it need tailoring and would I have that done?
- Have I worn it in the past year?
- Do I feel good when I wear it?
- Do I receive compliments when I wear it?
- Would I buy this item today?

Determine where each item should go next: the donate pile, the repair/clean pile, the toss pile, or on the rack because it's a keeper.

- Keepers are items that flatter, fit well, and work with your lifestyle. Only keepers should make it back into your closet once the audit is complete.
 - If there are non-keepers that you just can't let go of, store them elsewhere. Then you can walk into your closet with confidence each day, knowing that every item within it works for you.
- Return keepers to the closet.
 - Hang like items together and then organize by color within each group.
 - Fold sweaters and place them on shelves.



WARDROBE SOLUTIONS

Now the Fun Begins!

- Mix and mingle the keepers into different outfit combinations.
- Identify the holes in your wardrobe. Are you missing some basics, like a pencil skirt or a great pair of jeans? Do you need a few "wow" pieces to round out your wardrobe? Do you have an "orphaned" keeper without any other items to go with it?
- If you're ready for more, assess your scarves, belts, jewelry, and shoes to determine which are keepers. Then use them to accessorize and complete your outfits.



FINISHING TOUCHES

Knowing that every item in your closet works for you makes for a much more pleasant experience every time you walk in. Here are a few more tips:

- Banish wire hangers! Consider purchasing slimline hangers so that all of your clothes hang uniformly—and take up less space on the rods.
- Hang all items facing in the same direction.
- Fold sweaters and place them on shelves so they retain their shape.
- Use clear shoe boxes to keep shoes organized and easy to see.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *I Don't Have a Thing to Wear: The Psychology of Your Closet* by Judie Taggart and Jackie Walker
- *Sam Saboura's Real Style* by Sam Saboura
- *Brenda Kinsel's Fashion Makeover: 30 Days to Diva Style* by Brenda Kinsel
- *Full Frontal Fashion: Never Worry Again About What To Wear* by Melissa Sones and Rebecca Budig
- *The Pocket Stylist: Behind-the-Scenes Expertise from a Fashion Pro on Creating Your Own Unique Look* by Kendall Far