CC118 Planned Storage for Easier Housekeeping: Clothing
Planned Storage For Easier Housekeeping

Clothing

EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING,
W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR
CLOTHING STORAGE CLOSETS

"Not enough closet space" is the number one pet peeve of women. Even in the remodeled White House, it is reported, the First Lady found that planners had not provided for the necessary wardrobe space.

A closet that fits the clothes to be hung in it will make storage and housekeeping easier. Racks at various and adjustable heights use space to full advantage and make the closet more flexible in arrangement as needs change. Make sure the closet is deep enough to take care of all garments on hangers. A minimum depth of 24 inches will take care of even heavy coats.

Individual needs determine the best width for clothing closets. Calculate your needs from the dimensions given on Page 4.

Space saving sliding doors on overhead tracks give maximum and convenient use of storage areas. The rods then can be parallel with the opening which makes all garments easily seen and reached. Place vents in doors to prevent development of mold and odors.

Carefully planned fittings will help keep clothing in good condition, and closet in order. Boxes for hats and bags for clothing protect from dust too. Drawers or trays for underwear, sweaters, hose, socks, handkerchiefs, scarfs and even shoes provide "easy reach" and "easy see" storage. If swinging doors are used there are many possibilities of using the inside of the door itself for special storage needs.

For further information call on or write your County Extension Agents.

RECOMMEND DIMENSIONS FOR CLOTHING STORAGE

Depth, minimum........ 24 inches
Width, minimum per person 48 inches
Depth of shelves......... 12 inches
Average rod space per garment:
Misc. garments, women's 2 inches
Misc. garments, men's 2 1/2 inches
Heavy coats.............. 4 inches
Height of rods:
Adult's clothing, general 63 in.
Evening gowns, robes 72 in.
Clothing for children, suits & jackets for adults 45 in.
Distance between rod and shelf above ............ 2 1/2 inches
Distance between closet hooks ...................... 7 inches

*Adapted from Storage Space Research at University of Illinois, August, 1952
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You can plan and make your work areas and storage facilities fit YOU—even without construction changes. Often all that is necessary is a few simple adjustments and re-arrangements for easier Housekeeping. Just remember two things:

1. Ask yourself where you use an article most often, and store it there. Group things that are used together near a work area.

2. Store articles used most often in your "Easy Reach" work area; and those used a little less often in the "Maximum Reach" work area. Spaces above and below your "Maximum Reach" can be used for articles used only occasionally—such as large roasters, pressure canner, etc.

Find Your Own Best Work Areas

To find your own best work areas while standing to work, stand facing a piece of wrapping paper thumbtacked to the wall. With a crayon in each hand, and without stretching, swing two arcs beginning at the top and curving to the side and down. The circle formed outlines your "Easy Reach" area. (See diagram). Now with arms extended swing two more arcs, one with each hand. This larger circle marks the "Maximum Reach" area.

The height of the work surface should be comfortable too. This height should make it possible for you to maintain good posture, stand in a relaxed position and work without stooping or raising the hand above the level of the elbow. A counter where your hands work on or near the surface should be higher than that where long handled tools are used—for example, for vegetable preparation, dishwashing, etc. A counter 4 to 6 inches lower depending on your height and arm length will make it more comfortable to use mixing spoons, egg beaters, etc.

Leaflet prepared by Mrs. Clara N. Leopold, Home Management Specialist, University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture, Lincoln.

January, 1954
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