

1958

EC58-1127 Put it in Its Place

Jerre L. Withrow

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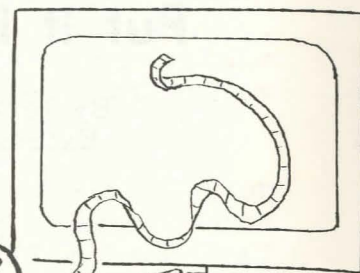
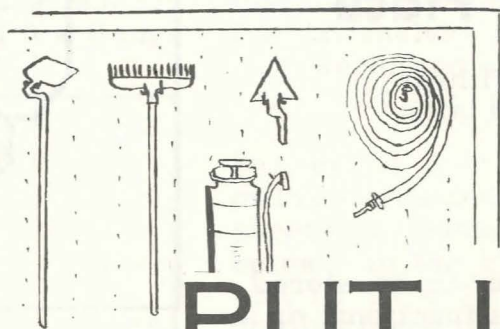
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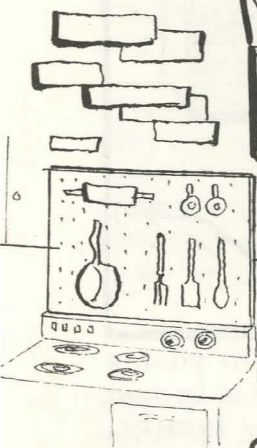
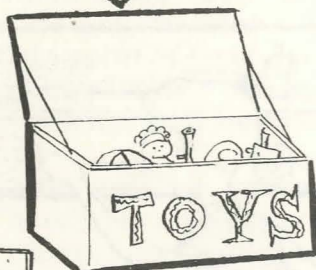
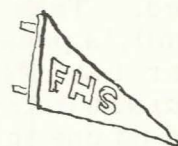
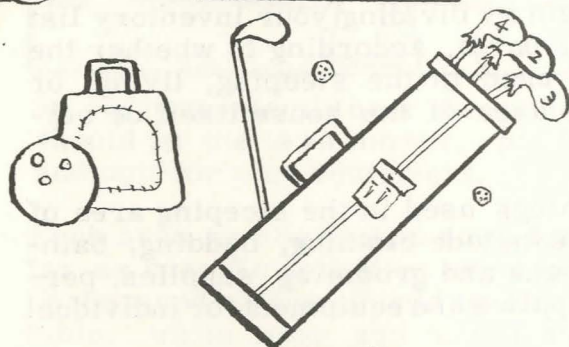
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PUT IT IN ITS PLACE

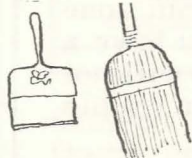
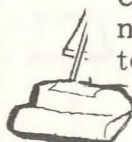


Put it in its place!

Where is its place?

Most of you probably ask that question a dozen times a day. A little thoughtful planning may be all you need to solve the storage problem in you home.

Without building storage walls, or even units, or buying any expensive cabinets, your present space can be converted to save steps, time and your disposition.



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Put It In Its Place

By Jerre L. Withrow,
Extension Specialist

WHAT?

First, consider what is to be stored. Possessions should fill a functional or a psychological need. For some, a food mixer makes baking jobs easier and faster, and fills the functional need. A book of poetry enriches some lives with beauty and enjoyment, and fills the psychological need. Take a mental inventory of your family's possessions. Is everything on your list useful? If there is not a golf course within several miles of your home, and no one in your family plays golf anyway, maybe that set of clubs isn't earning the space it occupies in the closet.

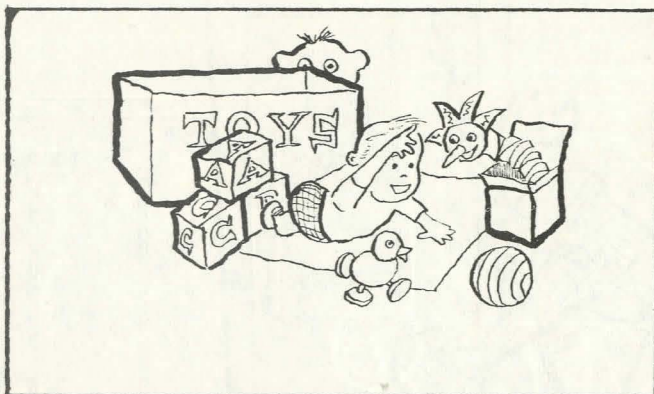
If you have any item on your inventory list that is not functionally or psychologically gratifying, discard it or move it to an out-of-the-way space. When you have taken a firm stand on what is to be stored, you have taken the first giant step toward solving the problem.



WHO?

Consider your way of life. Storage needs are a personal thing varying from one family group to another. If you have a large and active family your needs will not be the same as those of an older couple living alone.

Analyze your family. What do they do? Who uses the items on your inventory list most frequently?



WHERE?

Store each item where it is used. You may begin by dividing your inventory list into four parts, according to whether the item is used in the sleeping, living, or working area of the house itself or outdoors.

Some things used in the sleeping area of the house include clothing, bedding, bathroom linens and grooming supplies, personal supplies and equipment for individual leisure.



The living area includes different rooms in different houses. But whether it is just living room or includes dining, family, sun or recreation rooms, it is the area where books, records, games for family fun and supplies for social gatherings should be close at hand.



Food preparation, cleaning, and laundry equipment are used in the working area of the house. Skillets, mixing bowls, laundry soaps, and dust mops are a few things needed in this area.



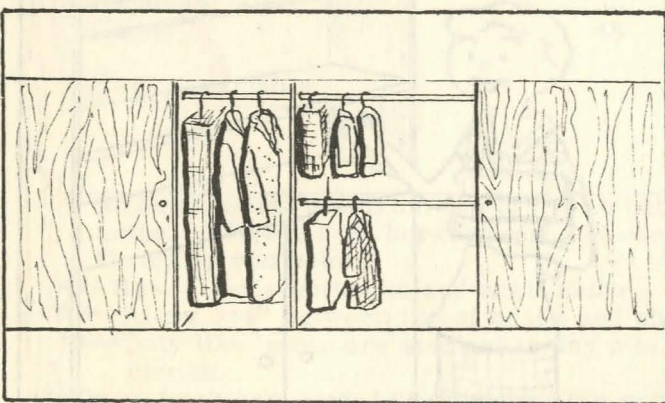
Stored conveniently near the outdoor area should be the lawn mower, garden tools and outdoor play equipment.

Each area may be broken down further as far as specific activities are concerned. Dishes and silver should be close to the table, while soap and towels should be near the tub and lavatory where they are used. This point of first use takes a little forethought and time. Organize carefully and convenience will be your reward.

Possessions will be used and enjoyed if they are handy instead of forgotten in some remote place. Save yourself steps and time by having all things needed for each household task available where the task is to be done.

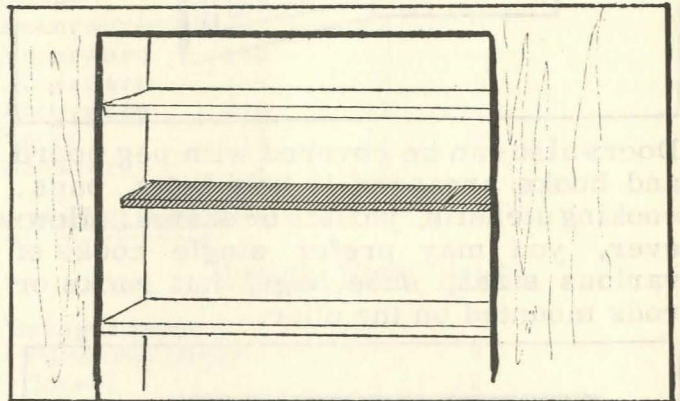
HOW?

Use the space according to the articles to be stored. Formal gowns require rods 72" high. Seventy-two inches also will accommodate two rods, one above the other, for jackets, shirts, blouses and skirts.



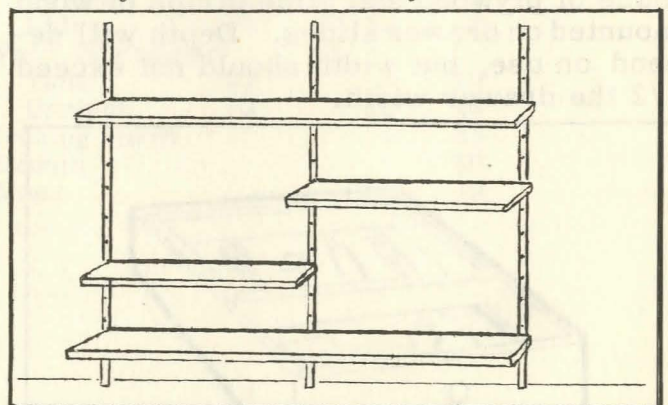
Changing shelf depth and distance between shelves can double available space. Adding shelves eliminates excess stacking. Partial shelves make it possible to place both larger and smaller items where they are easily seen and handled.

Shallow or partial shelves are ideal for pillow cases and will not interfere with sheets or blankets stored on a full shelf below. In the kitchen, glasses and cups will fit on a 6" shelf above the 12" one holding large plates.



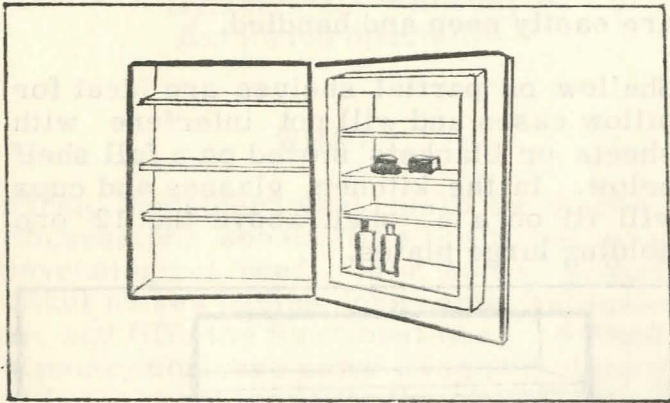
Children's clothing and adult's sweaters and shirts may be stored more conveniently on shelves than on hangers.

Adjustable shelves offer maximum flexibility of space. Supporting metal strips and clips make it possible to plan shelves at any height and interval desired. These strips are available at hardware stores or lumber yards and are easily installed in closets, or cupboards. By using brackets instead of clips, shelves may also be added directly to the wall of any room.

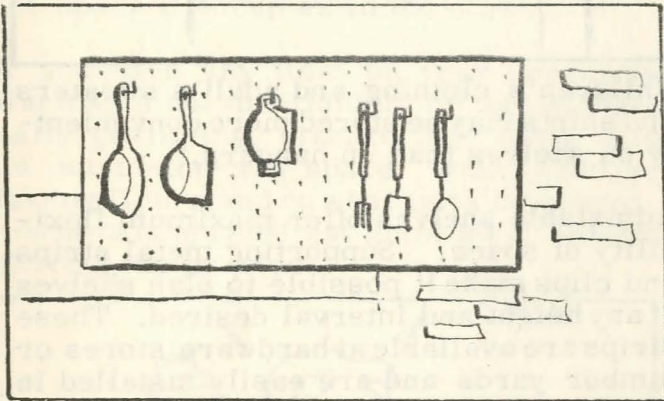


Shelves also may be added to a door. A frame set in from the edge to allow the door to close, acts as the support for shallow shelves. Bathroom supplies or canned goods would be convenient if stored this way. The same idea may be used on a

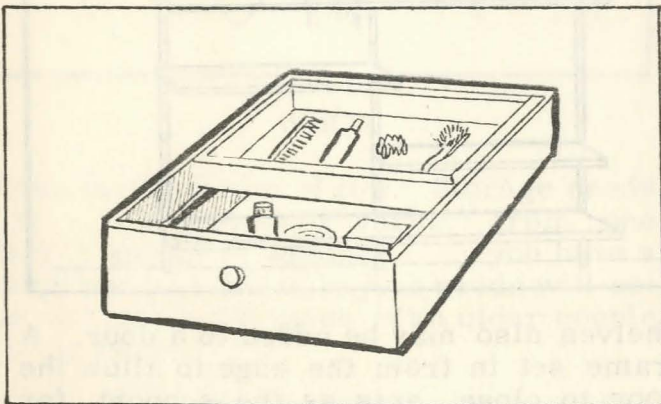
cupboard door if the regular shelf depth is pared. Storage of spices and other baking supplies in a mixing center can be greatly improved in this way.



Doors also can be covered with peg board and hooks arranged to hold belts, bags, cooking utensils, jackets or skates. However, you may prefer single hooks of various sizes, shoe bags, hat racks or rods mounted on the door.



Drawers may be made more serviceable by adding sliding trays. These may be made of plywood and glide strips of wood mounted on drawer slides. Depth will depend on use, but width should not exceed $1/2$ the drawer width.



Dividers will also increase efficiency of drawer space if sections are created with specific articles in mind.

Your own height will determine the height most convenient for storage in your home. Items used frequently will be most easily reached if stored no lower than your hand relaxed at your side and no higher than the top of your head. If you are average size the lower limit will be 27" and the upper limit 63".

In the kitchen, much of the space within these limits is wasted between base and wall cabinets. Adding partial shelves or peg board in this space will add storage without interfering with usable counter.

Articles used only occasionally may be stored beyond the "easy reach" limits.

You will find that heavy equipment can be handled most conveniently from below waist height. Store your roaster in a base cabinet and small supplies on upper shelves for easier and safer use.



Decide what is to be stored, who is to use it, where it is to be used, and how it can be stored. The list of dimensions of common household items and the worksheet will help you plan your storage for easier and happier homemaking.



DIMENSIONS OF A FEW COMMON HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES

SLEEPING AREA

Shelves	Length	Width	Height
1 Blanket	25	24	6
2 Sheets	15	14	5
2 Pillow cases	8	16	4
3 Bath Towels	10	16	5
2 Wash Cloths	7	13	3
Men's hat	14	12	8
Hat Box	10	12	9
Men's shoes	13	9	7
Women's hat	12	12	8
Hat box	14	14	9
Women's shoes	10	8	7
Child's shoes	6-10	5-7	6
Toilet articles			4-8
Bathroom supplies			8
Quart bottles	4	4	12
Luggage			
Trunk	36	20	24
Man's 2 suiter	22	17	7
Woman's pullman	21	13	7
Cosmetic case	12	9	5

LIVING AREA

	Length	Width	Height
Books***	12	10	6-14
Magazines			
Post	14	11	2
Digest	8	6	2
Card Tables	30-35	2-3	30-35
Folding chairs	15-18	2-3	37
Radio	8-16	6-8	6-9
Record player	15	13	10
Album	14		12
Dinnerware****	72	12	
Dinnerware	108	12	
Dinnerware	144	12	
Dinnerware	216	12	
Plates	11	11	6
Glassware	1	4	

WORKING AREA

	Length	Width	Height
Packaged foods			
Powdered sugar			7
Cereal			12
Cans No. 1	3		5
No. 10	6		7
Jars. Pt.	3		6
Qt.	4		7
Apron	11-14	10	4
Dish cloths	8	8	3
Dish towels	12	11	4
Napkins	10	10	4
Placemats	19	13	4
Tablecloths			
one 2 1/2 yds.	19	14	4
two 2 1/2 yds.	28	18	3
less than 2 yds.	14	10	4

Rods* (Center 12" out from rear of closet)

Woman's formal gown or housecoat	3	72
Dress	2	53
Skirt	2	35
Skirt	2	31
Jacket	3	31
Coats	4	53
Men's Trousers	2	49
Trousers over hanger	2	32
Shirt	2	33
Jacket	3	33
Coats	4	53

	Length	Width	Height
Children's			
Straight garments		20	20-45
Full dresses		3	20-45
Coats		2	20-45
Hooks**			
Pajamas, etc.		7	55
Coats		9	48

Drawers variable

Utensils			
Fry pan	12	12	5
Lids	14	14	2
Vacuum cleaner			
Tank	23	7	10
Upright	13	13	48
Ironing board	15	5	63
Broom			56
Mops			59

* Measurements are from top of rod to bottom of garment. They include hanger distance. Allow 2 1/2" between rod and shelf above. Allow 3" between garment and floor, or rod below.

**Allow 4" between hooks and shelf above.

*** Allow 3/4" between top of books and shelf above.

****Only like items are stacked in any pile - length includes decorative and service pieces.

Where fractions were 1/2 or more, the next higher number was used.

WORKSHEET

Area	Item	Number	Space
Sleeping			
Living			

[illegible]

