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Page: f8

Promises, promises

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If you're like most people, you say it every January: This is the year I will _____ (fill in the blank). When it comes to projects around the home, it's no different. Whether it's getting organized or sprucing up the yard, there are many resolutions that home dwellers may make each year. Actually accomplishing the tasks is another story.

ORGANIZE A **CLOSET**

If the clothes are jammed so close together you can't see them all, and it doesn't matter anyway because you can't fit into half of them -- it's probably time to clean out the **closet**.

Jessica Duquette, professional organizer in Los Angeles with In Perfect Order (www.inperfectorder.com), has several tips for tackling this project. The first is to do it with a friend you trust.

"It's really hard to make decisions when you're doing it by yourself. So you can trade and say, 'I'll help you with yours if you help me with mine.' It's quite physical, so have water, snacks, music, and make it fun," she said.

Before the big day, Duquette says to invest in quality wood or plastic hangers. Throw out all wire hangers and rehang the clothes in a uniform manner.

"People feel more satisfied about their **closet** when it looks good," she said.

When it's time to organize, pull everything out of the **closet** and then pick it up one by one. Duquette says to ask yourself, "Do I love it?"

If the answer is yes, keep it. If it's anything else, put it aside.

The organizer uses these sort piles:

- * Try on
- * Mend
- * Give to friend
- * Give to charity
- * Throw away
- * Store elsewhere in the house

As for arranging, clothes can be sorted into sections such as summer and winter, work and after work, or garment type.

"If you really want to get to the nitty gritty, arrange them by color," she said.

COST: About \$250.

MATERIALS: Hangers (about \$200 for a set of 100 wooden hangers or \$100 for 100 plastic) garbage bags, shoe organizer, boxes, garment bags.

TIME: Five to seven hours.