

Clothing declutter:

Decluttering a wardrobe is hugely satisfying, but we are generally pretty bad at it! So here are some top tips for clothing decluttering;

- Empty the entire wardrobe, or chest of drawers, or shelving unit onto the bed. (only tackle one at a time as to do all at once can be a) confusing, b) overwhelming, c) you might not be able to find your way out of the room ever again!)
- Hoover out, wipe down and generally clean the storage area you have emptied.
- Place clothes in piles designated:
 - Rubbish – remember that even items beyond wear can often still be recycled.
 - Recycle – clothes banks, charity shops, car boots, jumble sales, swap with friends.
 - Repair – be honest with yourself about whether you really will ever get around to repairing the item!
 - Retain – ask yourself if you have worn the item in the last year, as a rule of thumb if you haven't get rid of it.
- Sort out your hangers. Generally wire hangers are not great for hanging clothes on long term so aim to replace them. Use padded hangers for woollens or fragile fabrics (eg silk or linen). Non slip hangers are great as they hold the clothes in a better hanging position. Wooden hangers with a rotating cross bar are good for trousers. Skirts keep a better shape when hung from pegged hangers (often offered free with the clothes when purchased). Wooden hangers are also good for hanging scarves and belts.
- Drawers and shelves: do not be tempted to over stack clothes as it will squash and crease them, as well as making it harder to find items at a later date. It also tends to increase the likelihood of damp and mustiness.
- Replace clean, folded clothes back in the storage area.
- When replacing clothes in your wardrobe consider hanging them by item type (ie all trousers together) or by colour, to make it easier to find them when you want them.
- Any clothes that you plan to retain but which would benefit from a wash put in the laundry basket.
- Underwear: be ruthless! Throw out any socks, knickers, pants and bras that are holey, have overstretched elastic, no longer fit, or are a different colour now to the colour that they originally came in!
- Shoes: if they leak, kill your feet, no longer fit, or look like you found them beside a motorway, get rid of them. Consider investing in some boot trees as they will maintain the shape of your boots and keep them looking good.
- Accessories: organise your accessories so that you are clear what you have and where to find it when you need it. Clear out old or unwanted handbags, scarves, belts etc or have an accessory swap shop party with friends.