

DIY
SPECIAL

✿ THE LESS SPACE YOU
HAVE, THE GREATER YOUR
NEED FOR EFFECTIVE
ORGANISATION.

INTERIORS

2



INSIDE job

SOME JOBS YOU JUST CAN'T ESCAPE, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS NOWHERE TO HANG YOUR CLOTHES, PAINT IS PEELING FROM THE WALLS AND NEW DOORS NEED TO BE INSTALLED. THESE TASKS MAY SEEM DAUNTING, BUT THEY CAN EASILY BECOME A DIY EXERCISE.

Space age

CLOSETS ARE ALL TOO OFTEN IN CHAOS. MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR AVAILABLE SPACE WITH A CLEVER STORAGE SYSTEM FROM RUBBERMAID.



DESIGN PROFESSIONALS usually start by making a list. So make a list of everything you'll need to store in your custom wardrobe. Then consider the following questions: Do you fold or hang your clothes? Do you want to store your belongings behind doors or in drawers? Do you have a lot of shoes? Do you share your closet with your spouse?

The less space you have, the greater your need for effective organisation. Simply installing a double hang section, one clothes rod above the other, will

increase your storage space for shirts and blouses, skirts and pants. Adding shoe shelves will keep clutter off the floor. Shelf stacks are great for sweaters and folded items. Drawers will protect and organise your personal items.

Positioning your garments and shoes according to use is essential - from the items you use daily and weekly to monthly (or those you defiantly refuse to part with for sentimental reasons).

The daily and weekly items should be in plain sight and

● **HANG UP**

Simply installing a double hang section, one clothes rod above the other, will increase your space.

easiest to access, the rest should be stored on the periphery, out of the way. But, remember, still within view.

The Rubbermaid Configurations closet system is designed with just such customisation in mind: it can stretch, shrink, move, clip and grow to whatever your needs may be. For instance, if you tend

to fold most of your clothes, shelving is essential; likewise, if you hang everything, hanging rods are important. Short hanging clothes can be doubled up with two rods running parallel, and for longer garments a longer hanging space will be required.

Keep shoes at the lowest level, otherwise dirt and grit will find their way into your clothing. ■



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Turn your nightmare...



into someone else's dream...

Configurations™ Wardrobe Organisation System.

- No Cutting; Quick and easy to install
- Stylish Satin finish
- A complete custom closet kit in a box
- Expands to fit your wardrobe
- Kits can be reconfigured to suit your needs



DIY
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NEW DOORS CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO YOUR NEW HOME. IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO IT YOURSELF, THE OUTCOME MAY HINGE ON A FEW TRADE SECRETS, WRITES **AMANDA FALCONER**.

Open & shut case

INTERIORS

2

DO IT TELEVISION PRESENTER LUKE VAN DYCK says that hanging a door is not that difficult: "It's definitely something the average DIYer can do."

While this may be true, and the instructions that follow are simple, you may need a helping hand. If so, check out the Mitre Plan for hanging a door at www.mitre10.com.au

In the meantime, let's get started. You'll need to choose a door to replace your existing one and the type will depend on where it has to go. Solidcore doors are used outside and hollowcore doors are typically used inside.

When you've chosen the door, check the hinges on the existing one. If they're still good then the easiest thing to do is to strip them to re-use on the new door. If you need to replace the hinges then you'll also need to re-house out the doorjamb (vertical side pieces that support the lintel).

After you've taken out the existing door, measure the opening so you can cut down the new door to an exact fit. You could use the old door as a template if it fits the opening perfectly, but often you're replacing the door because it doesn't.

It's common to find that the door jamb aren't square. If you want to avoid the time-consuming task of straightening

When you've chosen the door, check the hinges on the existing one.



OPEN UP
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the jamb, repairing the architrave then having to repaint, you could use a short-cut.

Make a lightweight plasterboard template to fit the doorway. Once you're satisfied that the template fits and all the angles are correct, use it to cut the new door to size. After you attach the hinges, carry the door inside.

Use wedges under the door to help you get the correct clearances so you can mark the top and bottom hinge position. Then stand the door at an angle to the jamb and, using wedges, line the hinges up with your marks. Then drill one hole in each hinge and insert a screw.

Close the door and check the clearances all-round. This is the time to make necessary adjustments by lowering or raising wedges. Once you're sure it fits, you can screw the remaining holes. When that's done and you've checked that the door can swing freely but fits snugly, it's time to paint or stain your door. It's particularly important to seal the top and bottom edges, as when it rains unsealed timber can absorb the moisture and grow.

What happens then, says Van Dyck, is that the door becomes stuck in the jamb. "We've all had that," he says, "so make sure you seal it." »

COME CLEAN

If your surface is not flaking, you can simply wash walls with sugar soap to remove stains and mould. But if it's in poor shape, you'll need to strip off the paint. Use a wire brush to scrape away bubbles and flakes before using sandpaper to smooth edges.

For surfaces that have deteriorated badly, brush with a chemical liquid paint stripper. To remove paint from corners and grooves, use a spray-on stripper.

Sand metal surfaces lightly after stripping. If any rust is showing, wire brush well then treat with rust fixative. If the metal surface is new and rust-free, wash down well with turpentine before using oil-based primer.

To test the condition of an existing paint surface, press a finger-length of strong adhesive tape firmly on to it then rip the tape away quickly. If the paint lifts, you'll need to strip the whole surface and re-prepare it or treat it with a surface binder.

FILL UP

Cracks, holes and dents need to be filled to get an even surface. If there is any dampness on the surface, you must find the source and eliminate it before filling and painting.

Where no structural movement is expected, use interior filler on surfaces, such as plaster or plasterboard. This can be sanded smooth and is ready for painting in two to three hours. For small jobs, use quick-set interior filler. This is ready-mixed, easy to sand and ready for painting in only 30

minutes. Areas treated with filler should be undercoated to ensure an even appearance of the topcoat or finishing coat.

Where structural movement is likely, such as around window frames, architraves or cornices, use a flexible filler which can be tooled off to a smooth finish with a spatula or slightly damp cloth. It can't be sanded, so be sure you get a smooth finish before it skins and sets - about 15 minutes.

Holes, dents or chips in natural timber can be filled with plastic wood or water-based timber filler. This is a fast-setting filler which can be sanded smooth then treated in all respects as real wood by staining, varnishing or painting. Don't use it in joints.

SPLASH OUT

Once you've done the preparation, you should be ready to paint. Start with the ceiling first then walls, doors, window frames and architraves.

At the end of the job, don't forget to clean your brushes and hang them to dry with the bristles facing downwards. If using water-based paint, wash your brushes in water; if oil-based, use turpentine. Invest in a brush restorer to extend the life of your brushes.

SOURCE: www.bunnings.com.au

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THE PREPARATION, YOU SHOULD BE READY TO PAINT.



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Brush over

A DIY PAINT JOB CAN ACHIEVE A PROFESSIONAL LOOK IF YOU TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS.

ROLL ON

If using a roller, be aware that good roller frames have a compression-type cage known as an Obird cage. These compression frames are convenient because their covers can be removed quickly and easily. Don't forget to check the roller handle. It should have a threaded end if you plan to use an extension pole for painting floors or ceilings.

Natural fibre roller covers made with mohair or a blend of polyester and lambs wool are usually recommended for oil-based paints, varnish, stains or similar finishes. Synthetic fibre roller covers are most often recommended for applying acrylic paints.

SOURCE: www.3dpaintstore.com.au



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