



Organize your closet and find a "new" wardrobe

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It may not be haute couture, but you'll be surprised at what you find when you organize your closet.

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Finances are tough for many these days, and clothing can be an expensive investment.

Before spending more money on clothes, **check your own closets first:**

- Next time you're putting away laundry or dry cleaning, take some extra time to pull out the clothes that you haven't worn for a long time - you may be surprised at what you find, sometimes with price tags still in place!
- Try the clothes on in front of a full-length mirror, and don't forget to look around for the clothes and accessories you would wear with your new-found items.
- Hang up and put away the items you decide are worth keeping, and donate the rest.
- Then, just for fun, estimate how much it would have cost to buy each of the "new" items you discovered in your closet.

Need good sources to **donate the extras** you've found in your closet? Try these:

- Find your local [Salvation Army](#) or [Goodwill Industries](#) location.
- Donate your gently used professional clothing to [Dress for Success](#). This organization prepares women in need to return to the workplace with dignity.
- Give your formal wear of recent vintage to [The Glass Slipper Project](#). Deserving young women receive formal dresses, shoes, evening bags, jewelry, and unused make-up to attend their proms and other dress-up events.
- Organize a clothing swap at your workplace or in your neighborhood or community. You can make it a fun opportunity to mix and match items to create brand new ensembles.
- Contact family members who may be interested in receiving the clothes you can no longer use. A prized but too-large sweater may be the perfect fit for your second cousin.