

## **CLOSET DESIGN GUIDELINES**

Turning the packed, jumbled, messy closet at right into the tidy, organized space at left is easy, attainable, and life-changing for the homeowner.

These design guidelines include a brief description of our closet system; key differences between reach-in and walk-in closets, and a variety of tips, photos and forms to get you started.



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# STEWARDSHA PROGRAM

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## See inside for tips and information on:

- How placement of storage sections affects access
- · Sizes of various garments, both hanging and folded
- · Physical obstacles, and how to deal with them
- Determining type and amount of hanging sections
- What to do with corners

See the Closets Plus Price & Spec Guide for information on the materials, colors, and accessories offered. Components may be ordered individually, and many are available in pre-designed modules.





# Glossary of Terms

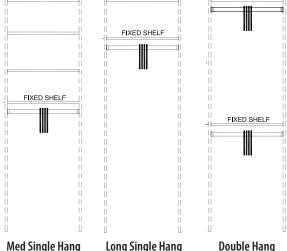
Single Hang (SH) – lower section of short hang, upper section of shelves.

- This is one of the best, most useful configurations because both hanging items and items on shelves are easy to see and reach.
- Mid Hang (MH) single pole with two to three shelves above, typically for hanging pants long (vs. folded in half over a hanger).
- Long Hang (LH) single pole with one to two shelves above, used mostly for hanging dresses.

**Double Hang (DH)** – upper and lower short hanging in one section with two poles and a fixed shelf in between.

**Poles** – typically installed 11-5/16" from the back wall.

 Canyon Creek offers standard and deluxe options in a variety of finishes. The deluxe pole is grooved to hold a PVC scratch guard insert. Pole diameter is 1-5/16."



**Long Single Hang** 

Double Hang

**Vertical Panel** – the vertical pieces of material that divide the sections or modules.

• Typically 87" and 96" in floor-based systems and 48" and 78" in hanging systems.

**L-Brackets** – shaped like an "L," used on vertical panels for stability (if necessary).

**CAM** – plastic fixture on the bottom of fixed shelves that screw into the vertical panel (to prevent horizontal shifting of the closet system). Shelves with CAM fittings require a screwdriver in order to be moved/adjusted.

**Bridge Shelf** – a connector shelf used to create a continuous storage shelf with two straight runs that are on adjacent walls. These can often be cut-to-fit in the field.

System Height – indicates the vertical measurement from the floor to the top shelf or finished height of the closet system. Predominantly 87" and 96," but can be any number.

**Inside Dimension** – the actual width of the section between the vertical panels.

Modules are called out by the inside dimensions.

**Outside Dimension** – the width of the entire section, including the vertical panels.

**Hard Measurements** – precise, wall-to-wall measurements of the actual space available.

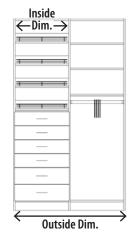
Soft Measurements – Refers to measurements of a closet system when the sections do not fill the entire space or do not extend wall-to-wall. These areas typically have bridge shelves that connect adjacent sections for continuous top shelf storage; we refer to these wall measurements as "soft" because there is some flexibility in fit.



CAM fitting



**Bridge Shelf** 



# Wall-Hanging or Floor-Supported?

Our closet systems are installed by using a metal hanging strip called a suspension rail. The suspension rail is anchored into the studs, and panels are attached to the suspension rail. With this system, the suspension rail remains visible, so clients will see the rail on the wall unless it is covered by one of our suspension rail covers. (Plastic or deluxe covers can be purchased separately.)

Because the basic structure is already in place, the suspension rail system creates a flexible layout that can be easily changed at any time. Closet poles, shelves, drawers and most accessories can be added or subtracted with evolving storage needs.

#### **WALL-HANGING SYSTEM**

- Panels do not rest on the floor, which allows for storage of oversized or heavy items on the floor, below the panels.
- Does not have the custom look of floor-supported systems.
- Easier to install.
- Allows latitude in height measurements.
- If sections are deeper than 14" the system should be floor-supported.

#### **FLOOR-SUPPORTED SYSTEM**

Combines the suspension rail system with additional support from the floor.

- Vertical panels rest on the floor and are attached to the suspension rails.
  - "L" brackets can be used to attach panels to walls. (Typically three per panel.)
- More material is required for bottom shelves and toe fronts.
  - Height measurements need to be more accurate.
- Baseboards on the side walls should be cut away for maximum use of space.
  - Vertical panels are typically installed 1/4" away from the return walls.
  - Shims can be used to level the system.
- Baseboard measurements are important because panels may be routed to accommodate the baseboard.
  - If the baseboards are higher than 4" it is often better to install baseboards after the closets are installed (in just the open space where there is no closet system).
  - Do not raise the bottom toe front to match the height of the baseboard because it forces the pole locations to be higher, and consequently harder to reach.

Note: It is not advisable to install suspension rail closet systems on a wall that contains a pocket door, as mounting the suspension rail may interfere with the door.





# Designing a Reach-In Closet

Reach-in closets are generally wall-to-wall unless there is an obstacle, such as a structural element or a utility panel. When designing a reach-in, the fewer sections you divide the closet into the better, to make items more accessible. Fewer sections also means fewer vertical panels, which helps lower the price.

General Guidelines for
Sections in a Reach-In:

Width (Feet)	Sections
3	1 – 2
4	2
5	2 – 3
6	3
7	3 – 4
8	3 – 4
9	4
10	4 – 5

### **Design Considerations**

Place hanging sections in the hard-toreach areas like deep side returns, or in the middle section of a wide closet that has two openings with doors. When placing hanging in the middle space, try to go beyond the span of the front wall area so panels don't block access. (See example below.)



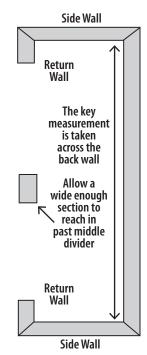
In a wide closet, if the visible wall between the doors is 20," the middle hanging section should be at least 36" wide—preferably 42" wide—to provide ample room to reach items.

- If there is an access panel or another obstacle on the back wall, design a hanging section in front of the panel that allows easy access (so the section spans the width of the access panel).
- Leave adequate space between the front of the system and the front wall of the closet. The deeper the panels, the harder it is to reach items, because there's less open space in front of the installed structure.
- If drawers or baskets are to be included, they need to be considered first and located so that they can be fully opened. Keep in mind that this may create a very small (16 to 18" wide) section between the side wall and the drawers, which is hard to access unless there are no return walls.
  - A bank of 18" wide drawers (instead of 24" wide) may improve accessibility.
- Most top shelves in reach-in closets accommodate large, soft items such as pillows and blankets. Once you install a 14" deep vertical panel, there is only 10" of open "front" space to fit things up and onto the top shelf.

#### Measuring the Space

The wall-to-wall measurement in all closets requires a "hard" measurement. Once the hard measurement is determined, subtract ¼" to ½" to allow for flexibility in your design. Generally, fillers are not used between walls and panels.

- Your key measurement for a reach-in is taken across the back wall. Clear access to the back wall is required—do not measure in front of the clothing! Take measurements from the bottom and top of walls in case the walls are not square.
- Measure depth of both side walls, return walls, ceiling, baseboard heights and obstacles.
- Remember: a depth of 24" or more is required to hang clothes. If the closet is less than 22" deep, avoid adding a hanging section.
- Standard heights are 87" and/or 96" from the floor. Anything higher would be difficult to access because of the front header.





# Designing a Walk-In Closet

Walk-in closets can be a simple L-shape with a couple of hanging sections and a few shelves, or an elaborate U-shape with many custom touches. The number of sections is not as much of a consideration as is the placement of different elements throughout the space.

#### **General Guidelines**

- Plan for a minimum clearance of 24" for a walkway in a closet (between the two sides or around an island or peninsula). This is narrower than ADA standards, so it may need to be widened if the client has special needs.
- If the closet is wider than it is long (as you stand in the doorway looking in), start the design process by putting hanging on the short walls.
- If there is less than 24" between the side wall and the entrance, place shelving, drawers or baskets in this area, as a hanging section will interfere with the doorway.
  - 14" shelving works well by entrances because it's often used for shoes,
     which are put on last and taken off first as you enter and exit the closet.



- Determine drawer and/or basket locations.
  - For safety and ease of access, drawers should not be placed behind a door that opens into the closet.
  - Centered on the back wall, in line with the entrance looks nice and allows drawers to open fully.

**Tip:** It's a good idea to take plenty of photos of the empty space, paying special attention to obstacles. Photos are great reference tools not only during the design phase, but also during closet installation.

Once drawers and baskets are placed, add Long (LH) and/or Mid Single Hang (MH), Double Hang (DH) and shelving.

Avoid placing DH in the first section as you enter. The height and width of a section full of clothes tends to create a feeling of narrowness you have to "push through," which is another reason why it works well on the back wall.

 If you've designed DH on the short walls, the next sections on the adjacent wall should not be DH (unless you're allowing at least 30" of space).

If the depth of the front return walls is at least 24" deep (which then also means that the closet is at least 72" wide), hanging can be designed into the adjacent walls.

#### **Design Considerations**

The width of a walk-in closet is a driving factor for the resulting design. Anything under 72" wide won't leave a wide enough walkway to accommodate hanging sections on both opposing walls.

Keep in mind that while a closet may look large when it's empty, size does not always determine actual storage capacity. Depending on the location of the door, the size of the return walls and the width, a walk-in closet may not net any more storage than a reach-in configuration.



# Designing a Walk-In Closet continued

#### Closets 48" to 71" wide:

- An "L" shaped design is really the only option.
- · Hanging should go on the back (short) wall.
- Use the side wall with the deepest return for shelves, drawers or baskets. The other long wall can have hooks.

#### Closets 72" to 84" wide:

- Hanging should go on the back wall.
- Both side walls can be used for hanging, although this configuration provides for only the minimum clearance of a 24" walkway.
- Placing hanging on only one side wall (with the deepest return) and shelves, drawers and/or baskets on the other side wall is optimal.



#### Closets over 84" wide:

Allows for the most options and configuration choices. The central open area is generally large enough to allow for deeper hutch areas, wardrobe lifts and other accessories. If the closet is 120" wide, a one-sided or narrow island or peninsula can be incorporated. 144" wide allows for a two-sided island or peninsula.



#### **Corners**

Corners need to be planned carefully in a walk-in closet.

- The easiest solution is to simply allow 24" (minimum) to 30" from the back wall before starting the section on the adjacent wall. This accommodates the depth of the clothing plus a couple of inches for reaching in to get them.
- This 24" to 30" measurement can be adjusted up or down based upon the space available. (Considered a "soft" measurement.)
- While the DH configuration is one that's used in almost every closet, try
  to avoid using it going into <u>and</u> coming out of a corner–it creates the
  feeling of a wall of clothing coming at you!
- Corners are a good place to put a bridge shelf, which spans the width of the space and allows for a continuous storage shelf around the perimeter.

#### Measuring the Space

After looking over the space and speaking with the clients about their needs, start taking precise measurements in whatever format you're currently most comfortable with. (Clockwise, longest wall first, etc.)

Be sure to include:

- Door and ceiling heights
- · Baseboard depth and height
- Type of flooring

Be particularly attentive to the "short" walls in the closet. These will be "hard" measurements, with the design going wall-to-wall. These walls are frequently used for double hang (DH).



# Closet Design Tips

## Most people wear 20% of their clothing 80% of the time.

With that thought in mind, not every item in a closet needs to be instantly accessible. Let's consider the middle section of double hang in a wide reach-in closet. Most of the items hanging there will be clothing the client doesn't wear very often, so not having it right in front really won't be an issue. If they indicate that it will, suggest they use that space for out-of-season or rarely used formal clothing.

You'll also have homeowners who take you into closets with 12 ft. ceilings (or higher) and say, "I want shelves all the way to the top." In addition to the problem of accessing storage at that height, all of that extra material can get expensive, especially if they want doors. And for the most part, they don't gain enough additional storage space to get a good return on the financial investment. It's better to suggest they use the top shelf of a standard height system for plastic storage bins or decorative boxes.

#### Short/Double Hang:

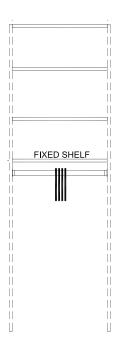
- Hang shorter items on the top pole so they don't overshadow items on the lower pole.
- Items with big shoulders are better on the lower pole.
- If the client is petite, using the lower pole for almost everything is preferred. In a shared closet, it works well for the taller person to use the top poles and the shorter person to use the lower poles.

#### Mid Hang:

- The pole is placed approximately 50" above the floor, with shelving above.
- MH is a very effective configuration, as both hanging items and shelf contents are easy to see and to reach.
- This is also useful for hanging pants by the top or cuff (vs. folding them in half.) Always ask how clients hang their pants to determine how many sections may be needed.
- If the client is petite, MH can serve as LH.
- Shelves should go above the hanging unless the depth of everything is 24." However, because items tend to get pushed to the back, 24" deep shelves are not very useful.

#### **Long Hang:**

- Always ask if LH needs to be incorporated into the closet, as it is not always necessary.
- If needed, most people require a width of 18" or less for storage of these items.
- Adding this additional, small section tends to increase the cost and decrease the effectiveness of the design solution, particularly when space is tight. See if the customer has any other closet where this LH can be stored as it usually nets a more effective design in the space you're working with.
- Since most people do not wear LH items on a daily basis, locating it in harder to reach or less convenient areas is acceptable. However, be careful not to design a tiny, 18" wide section into a corner with limited accessibility.



A mid hang module with three shelves above



#### **Shelves:**

- Shelving provides many of the same storage functions as drawers or baskets, but at a lower price point.
- Items on shelves are easier to see than items inside drawers.
- Positioning shelves and drawers (rather than hanging) just inside the door of a walk-in creates a more spacious feeling.
- Putting shelves below hanging is not a recommended storage design.
  - If the installed system is less than 24" deep, the hanging will extend past the shelves and hide whatever is on the shelves. If the installed system is 24," it's still not a good idea because 24" is way too deep for most items. The best solution is to lower the pole and put the shelves above the pole.
- Top shelves are best used for large, lightweight and least-used items (such as seasonal items.)
- Middle shelves (shoulder to waist) are easy to access for the most frequently used items.
- Bottom shelves (below waist) should house heavier, larger, less frequently used items.

Keep in mind that items such as men's shoes may stick out a bit beyond the front of a shelf. This is fine if the shelves are open, but if doors are incorporated they won't be able to fully close! For this reason, it's a good idea to measure the depth of men's shoes or other items that will go behind doors.

- When installing doors between a 14" deep panel on one side and a 22" or 24" deep panel on the other, an additional 14" deep panel is required next to the 22" or 24" panel for the door to close against or hinge to.
- As noted above, if you put doors in front of shelves, make sure the items being stored fit entirely on the shelf.
- Angled shoe shelves are beautiful and functional. Keep in mind that the angle requires more space between each shelf, so if the client is trying to maximize shoe storage (or has many pairs of boots), standard adjustable shelves may be a better option.
  - Remember: angled shelves require a screwdriver to adjust or move, and really only work for shoes.

Cubbies look great in magazine photos, and are frequently requested. However, because of the fixed size, they can actually limit storage options. If storage is at a premium, it's a good idea to ask the homeowner what they plan to put in this area. Shelves and drawers easily accommodate a multitude of items in varying sizes, and may actually be more flexible (and functional).



#### **Section Widths:**

- Try to use standard widths for shelving, and use the odd widths for hanging sections.
- Most folded items are 12" wide so widths in multiples of this dimension (24" or 36") work best. 36" wide sections are a good choice when people want larger drawers, and/or fold their items loosely.
- Shelving sections that will hold heavy items should not be wider than 24."

#### **Section Depths:**

- Most items stored on shelves are small to medium in size, so 14" deep shelves should work just fine.
- Deeper shelves should be spaced further apart–if shelves are too close together, you create a "black hole" that makes it hard to see or reach whatever is in the back. This makes it likely that things will get lost or forgotten.
- Pillows, blankets, luggage, plastic bins or storage boxes all work well on 24" deep shelves.

#### **Drawers and Baskets:**

- Many people want drawers or baskets incorporated into their closets because they don't want a dresser in the bedroom. It's a good idea to design all of the hanging storage first, and then evaluate the amount of space that remains.
- There's usually not much difference in pricing between the two, so the decision often comes down to: baskets let you see more of what's inside, while drawers only allow you to see what's on top.
- Drawers work well for small items that don't tend to stack well: undergarments, socks, hosiery, accessories and lingerie/pajamas. T-shirts and other folded items actually work better on shelves because you can see the range of colors at a glance.
- Hanging shouldn't be placed above drawers unless the drawers are 24" deep–items on a 14" deep shelf tend to get lost under the overhang.
- While there is no standard for drawer placement, consider the person's height when placing a bank of drawers.
  - Drawers designed higher than a client's chin aren't useful because you can't see what's in them without using a stepladder.
  - Sizes will vary depending upon client preference. (Deep vs. shallow, how many they need, etc.)



## **Designing Around Common Obstacles**

#### **Return Walls:**

- These are the front walls of a closet. Their size/depth is often indicated by the builders' choice of door size(s).
- Anything deeper than 18" makes for difficult access. Sometimes turning the section is a good option, although you need to remember to leave enough space in front of this hanging to allow access. This means coming in approximately 30" from that wall before starting the section next to it.

## **Angled Walls:**

How you handle angled walls is often driven by price. If the client is looking for economical solutions, measure
out sections while you're in the space, making sure your clearances are good. This means there will be open space
between the upright panels. If the client wants to invest more, you can do columns or fillers. Or, have vertical panels
drilled through and put pull-out racks in the void. You can also make templates to ensure accuracy.

#### Windows:

- If the window is low, consider a bench or hamper(s) below it. If the window is more than 43" from the floor, MH can go underneath as well as a short stack of shelving.
- If the space is fairly small, ask the homeowner how much decorative trim they want around the window: a 3" to 4" wide moulding becomes 7" to 9" of wasted space once you factor in the width of the vertical panels.

#### **Baseboard Heaters and Radiators:**

• Measure dimensions and location on wall and get clearance information from client. (How much open space do they require to work as intended and not be a hazard.)

#### **Security Alarm Systems:**

- When measuring and designing around them, consider a short upper panel. Sometimes a short lower panel can also be worked in, depending upon size and location on wall.
- Systems should not be covered or blocked. Allow enough clearance space for doors to open and close—it may be best to leave that space open and place some hooks on the back wall and side panels.
- Can be a good place for vacuum cleaners, ironing boards and other items with an awkward size or shape.

## **Crawl Spaces and Plumbing Access Panels:**

• These can be covered with a hanging section that spans the width of the opening yet still allows for easy access. Shelving is really not recommended as it makes access difficult and installation more complicated.

#### **Steam Mechanicals:**

• Usually found in high-rise buildings. Measure dimensions and clearances carefully. Can be covered with doors if it's vented, or use hanging with shelving above. Double-check the manufacturer's recommended clearances for appropriate functionality.



#### **Sprinkler Heads:**

- Typically found in high-rise buildings, although some homes and condos now include sprinkler systems. Note location and verify with the owner that they will still have enough clearance to function if they pop out from the wall several inches when turned on.
- Check local building codes for clearance requirements.

#### **Base Moulding:**

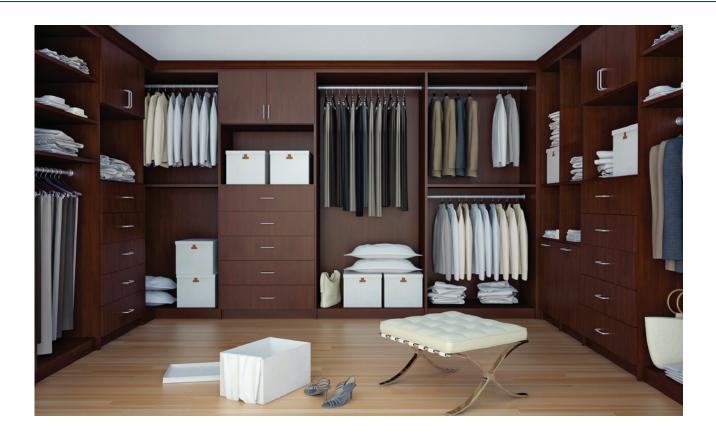
• It's important to measure the height and depth of the baseboard, indicate whether or not there is quarter-round moulding, and if the floor is carpet or a hard surface.

#### **Light Switches:**

• Location is important! The client should have enough room to turn on the light without hitting their knuckles on a vertical panel. If space is at a premium, design the closet so the installation team can cut an access area onsite. Can be divided between upper and lower panels to avoid notching.

#### **Attic Access:**

• Design the closet so that the section width located directly below the ceiling access panel is wide enough to allow for removal of the top shelf. (This allows accessibility.)





# **Useful Numbers**

The charts below contain a number of helpful measurements to use as a reference when designing a closet. Large, bulky items, such as bedding or storage boxes, should be measured and counted if they will be used in the closet.

Typical Sizes of Hanging Garments		
Garment	Width	Length (includes hanger)
Skirts	1 – 2"	30 – 44"
Dresses	1 – 2"	44 – 66"
Blouses	1/2 – 1"	28 – 36"
Her Suits/Jackets	2 – 4"	30 – 42"
His Suits/Jackets	2 – 4"	38 – 44"
Men's Shirts	1 – 3"	38 – 40"
Adult Coats	4 – 7"	44 – 66"
Outerwear Jackets	4 – 7"	40 – 48"
Pants, hanging long	1 – 2"	41 – 52"
Pants, hanging folded	1 – 2"	28 – 32"
Robes	2 – 4"	44 – 66"
Formal Dresses	3 – 8"	70 – 78"

Typical Sizes of Folded Garments		
Garment	Width	Depth
Sweaters, Jeans	10 – 14"	14 – 16"
T-Shirts	10 – 12"	12 – 14″
Towels/Sheets	14 – 16"	14 – 16"
Blankets	18 – 24"	14 – 18"
Shoes – Women's	7 – 8" (avg.)	9 – 11"
Shoes – Men's	9" (avg.)	10 – 14"

Standard Closet Pole Heights		
Section Type	From Floor to Top of Pole	
Double Hang	40-1/2" and 82"	
Medium Hang	54"	
Long Hang	66"	

Standard Heights for Accessories		
Item	From Floor to Top of Item	
Valet Rod – Adult	70"	
Valet Rod – Child	60"	
Belt Rack – Adult	50" or belt length + 2"	
Belt Rack – Child	42"	
Tie Rack – 2 Stacked	40" and 78"	
Tie Rack – Single	72"	
Ironing Board Holder	60"	

Cumulative Widths of Multiple Panels				
Panel Qty	Size		Panel Qty	Size
1	.75"		7	5.25"
2	1.5"		8	6"
3	2.25"		9	6.75"
4	3″		10	7.5"
5	3.75"		11	8.25"
6	4.5"		12	9″

# The Design Consultation

## When you schedule the appointment:

Find out as much information as possible before you arrive at the appointment. This allows you to plan ample time to converse with the client and take accurate measurements of all areas. Some questions to ask include:

- Number of closets or storage areas to be designed.
- What types of clothes/items do they want stored in their closet?
- · Have they had custom closets before?
- Have they seen other closets they like and what did they like about them?
- What's their budget? If they say they don't have one, try to give them ballpark figures.
- What's most important to them—to simply increase function or do they also want it to be beautiful? After function, how important is form/beauty?
- Let them know that you need to be able to measure the back and side
  walls, so the space needs to be accessible. It's frustrating and timeconsuming to have to try and move boxes, toys and equipment to get at
  the space you need to measure.



Ask that the space be made accessible before you arrive!

#### At the consultation:

Once you're in the home, you'll want to ask a number of questions to help you narrow down the storage requirements for each space. It's also a good idea to have clients look through brochures or closet design magazines while you take measurements. This allows you to focus and gives them some ideas of what is available in closet design.

- Who uses this closet?
- Do they have special items that need to be stored here?
- What physical obstacles are present? (Be sure to draw up and measure these.)
- What currently works and what doesn't?
- What's on their wish list for this closet?
- Do they have a preference for how these items are stored-hanging, shelves, drawers, hooks, etc.?
- What are the "must have," "want to have," and "would like to have" features?



#### Measuring the space:

 Take overall measurements of existing hanging, and approximately how much of each type is present. Take a rough shoe count as well as purse, tie, belt, scarf, etc. You want to do the best you can to accommodate storage for these items into your design without losing large amounts of time in the process of counting items. There is an inventory form at the end of this document that can help record information and define the size and type of closet sections needed.

# The Design Consultation continued

## **Space Planning**

Remember that not every square inch of space will be useable. When you're dealing with obstacles or an oddly shaped space, it can be more expensive than it's worth to custom design and build a solution. Sometimes it's better to leave space open for large items, or things the client hasn't yet planned for.



- Ask your clients to give you an idea of all the features they would like in their closet. If they have pictures from magazines or links to websites, ask them to send those to you before the first appointment. Assure them that you will do your best to incorporate their thoughts, wishes and design ideas.
- You may find it necessary to demonstrate that no matter how much they may want it, you can't fit a stack of drawers, a column of shelves, a section of DH, a section of LH and a hamper in a 6-foot reach-in closet (even if it works on paper).
- If you're measuring a walk-in closet that's going to be shared by a couple, ask them how much space each will require. With male/female couples, this is typically a 1/3-man, 2/3-woman split. Also ask about how much separation they want between the two–sometimes they don't even want to share a section of LH, even if it's only one robe.

Remember that you're a storage designer there to create custom storage solutions—not a professional organizer who's there to determine what to keep, what to get rid of and exactly where to put it. You're focused on getting the items stored (whenever possible).

## **Presenting Your Design**

When it's time to present your design, it's a good idea to invite the client to your showroom, or to return to the client's home. Meeting in your showroom will allow you to walk them through a number of options, while meeting at their home will give you an opportunity to describe the design in the actual space.

Don't be surprised, if, for example, people look at your design and ask you why you're "wasting" the space in the corner with a bridge shelf. Explain that the space is filled with clothing, which typically takes up 24" of space. To demonstrate, stand next to a wall as if you (and the clothes you have on) were actually "hanging" in a closet and ask them to visualize that you're a garment in their closet. This really helps drive home the point about the depth that hanging clothes take up.



# What **is** a Closet Designer, Anyway?

## **Role of the Closet Designer**

In existing homes or a custom design for a high-end builder, it's the closet designer's job to provide custom storage solutions that accommodate the needs of the client, have structural integrity and maximize the effectiveness of that space within workable parameters (walls, obstacles, etc.).

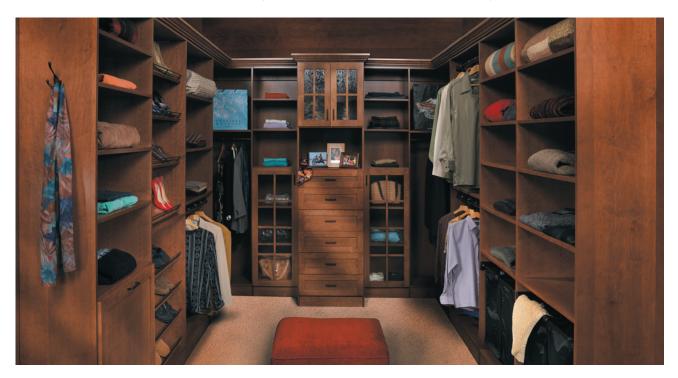
• The designer should also know what types of solutions work best for the different items typically stored in closets. Designers need to ask a lot of questions about how the client wants the space to function and what items will be stored in it.

For new construction, the closet decision is almost always based upon price, particularly in larger developments, multi-family buildings and high-rises. These designs will typically be hanging sections with adjustable shelves.

• In smaller, more custom, higher priced projects, you can get a budget figure or allowance from the developer or builder. Use standard widths and depths so cost-effective changes can be easily incorporated. For example, show alternate designs with drawers and baskets in sections that are 18, 24 or 30" wide and 14" deep.

## What is a Professional Organizer?

Many people are confused as to what is the difference between a closet designer and a professional organizer (the most common comparison). A professional organizer will go through every item of clothing, jewelry, etc. with you to determine what you keep and what goes away. They will then organize those items based on color, size, function, etc. Your role is not to be a professional organizer–you're there to create a space for everything to be organized into!





Notes/Comments/Ideas	



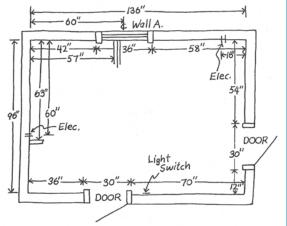
# Sketch Your Space

## **Space & Appliance Information**

Provide complete room and appliance information as shown below:

**Space:** all four walls should be measured, and should include window and door dimensions (including trim), ceiling and soffit heights, placement of light switches, electrical outlets, and utility panels. Be sure to indicate which direction doors swing. For new construction, remember to include the thickness of sheetrock and proposed flooring.

**Appliances:** specifications are required for all appliances that will be used, whether existing or new purchases. For sinks, be sure to indicate size and depth. Also, note if doors are hinged on the left or the right.



Make sure you note locations of existing and proposed:

- doors
- windows
- ceiling height
- vents
- switches
- outlets
- light fixtures
- utility panels
- security systems
- sprinkler heads

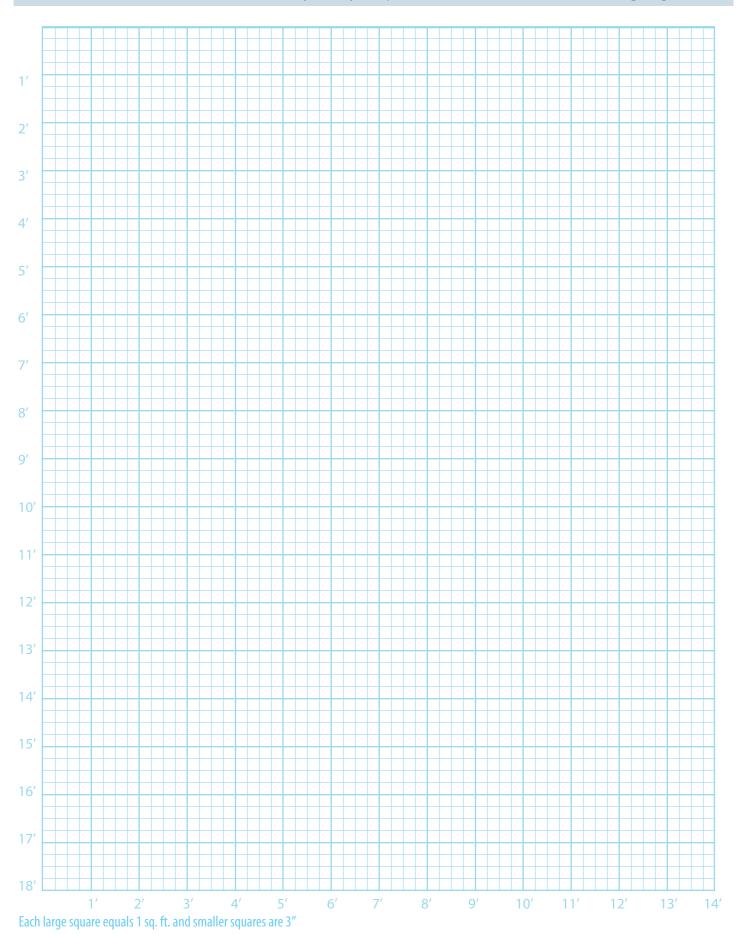
## **Appliance Specifications**

Provide detailed specs for all appliances that will be used in the room:

Appliance	Brand/Model	Width	Height	Depth	Hinge Pos. on L/R	"X" if Existing
Microwave						
Mini Fridge						
Wine Cooler						
Built in Coffee Maker						
Espresso Maker						
Sink						
Washer						
Dryer						
Television						

Notes/Comments:		





# Closet Inventory

Performing a quick inventory of the items that are currently in your closet – and items that will be added – will help your Closets Plus designer create the most effective layout.

- Take separate inventory counts for each user we've provided two columns for shared closets.
- Take separate inventory counts for each closet.
- When measuring hanging items, measure from the closet rod to the bottom of the garment.
- Folded items generally take up 12" of space make a note if you fold wider than 12".
- When measuring shoes, handbags and other items, count boots, oversize or bulky items separately.

SHORT HANG (39" or less, including hanger)	MEDIUM HANG (39" - 54", including hanger)
Shirts/Blouses	Short Dresses
T-Shirts	Pantsuits/Men's Suits
Sweaters/Vests	Pants (hung long)
Jackets/Sport Coats	Long Jackets
Pants (folded)	Medium Coats
Misc. Short Hang	Misc. Medium Hang
LONG HANG (More than 54", including hanger)	FOLDED GARMENTS (Number of items)
Long Dresses/Gowns	Sweatshirts/Pants
Overalls/Jumpsuits	Sweaters - Bulky
Bath Robes	Sweaters - Thin
Long/Trench Coats	T-Shirts
Misc. Long Hang	Misc. Folded Garments
NOTES:	



NON-FOLDED GARMENTS	ITEMS ON SHELVES - SMALL
Lingerie  Underwear  Socks/Nylons  Scarves - Bulky  Scarves - Thin	Shoes - Pairs  Purses/Handbags  Shoe Boxes  Hat Boxes  Gift Boxes/Bags
Gloves/Mittens	Misc. Small Items
ITEMS ON HOOKS	ITEMS ON SHELVES - LARGE
Robes	Boots - Pairs  Purses/Handbags  Luggage  Quilts/Comforters  Blankets/Pillows  Misc. Large Items
WISH LIST (Mark item you would like to have incorporated into your new closet)	
Drawers - Shallow	Angled Shoe Shelves

