

Order in the house



Declutter your wardrobe and you'll have more time for the things that really matter, as we show one reader

MORNINGS were hell for Pauline Duff. What to wear? Where to find it? And why is everything always so crushed?

Duff, 34, taught social science and business in NSW schools for nine years. Then, 22 months ago, she took the risk of her life and launched Coconut Ice, a homewares store in Oatley in Sydney's south.

Putting so much energy into her business meant Duff had little time to keep things sorted at home. First her home office turned to chaos; then her own wardrobe became a mess.

"I used to waste so much time trying to decide what to wear," she says. "My possessions were all over the place. Being disorganised made it frustrating looking for items because I didn't have a place for everything."

Your wardrobe is the space



you look at every day, usually when pressured for time, says Carol Posener, who runs a business called Get Organised and has written a book on the issues called *Get Organised: A Practical Guide to Organising Your Home and Office* (Lothian).

As she says, "Most people want clever spaces in wardrobes, with the right dimensions for their clothes and accessories."

"The key to an organised wardrobe is perfectly-sized compartments, either built in or made from boxes that maximise the overall use of our wardrobe space."

"When I buy new items I try to cull the equivalent number to create space. Ask yourself how many clothes you really need. The simple rule is that if you haven't worn it for a year, give it away or recycle it!"

Posener estimates the average person wears 20 per cent of their wardrobe 80 per cent of the time. And, according to a survey by iVillage.co.uk, the average woman's wardrobe is worth just under A\$6000.

As for Duff, since we decluttered her wardrobe she's had more time to focus on her business.

"Being organised equates to a better quality of life. Now my wardrobe is clutter-free I save time getting dressed, I have a place for everything and time to think about my business and how to develop my ideas." **le**

Being disorganised made it frustrating looking for items because I didn't have a place for everything.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIE HOWARD

IN ITS PLACE

IKEA Wicker Baskets, \$19 each. Pink and white magazine holders and boxes from Kikki.k (memorabilia box \$34.95, photo box \$34.95, magazine boxes \$19.95, My Dream Home folder \$39.95, My Garden folder \$39.95).

Striped Linen Storage bin from Nordic Fusion \$84 for set of three.

Vintage sign from Sorrento Homewares \$55.



Large pink crystal, from Sorrento Homewares, \$24.95.

Fragrant Rose, from Sorrento Homewares, \$9.95.

White coat hangers, \$1.50 each or 60 for \$40, from Target.

Polypropylene storage boxes in blue and white, \$5.50 each, from The Last Diary Company.

Rose linen water \$24.95, from L'Occitane De Provence.

STOCKISTS

Kikki-k 02 9386 0804
www.kikki-k.com.au
L'Occitane De Provence 02 8912 3000
Nordic Fusion 02 9948 1166
www.nordicfusion.com.au



Fun movie tickets
Child's clothing
Plan dinner party
Time missing to charity
Get house...

Sorrento Homewares 02 9387 8011
Target 1300 130 000
IKEA Sydney 02 9313 6400, Melbourne 03 8416 5000, Brisbane 07 3340 2000
www.ikea.com.au
The Last Diary Company 03 9590 9095

How to win the space race

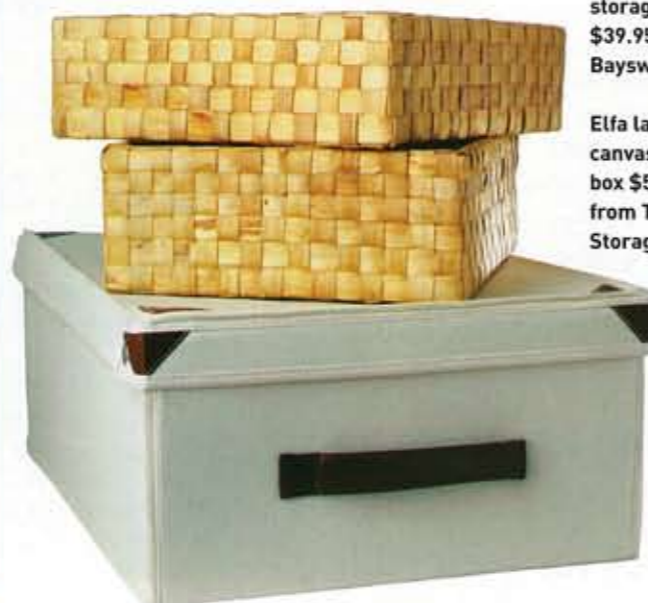
- 1 De-clutter your wardrobe each year.
- 2 If you haven't worn an item for three years, you most probably won't wear it, so give it to someone who can use it. Seldom-used clothes take up 80 per cent of our cupboard space.
- 3 If you're hanging onto an item because it reminds you of a special moment, take a photo of the item and reclaim the space.
- 4 Buy attractive boxes to match your bedroom colours to store cards, scarves, stockings and perfumed soaps. Buy storage containers only after you've assessed what you need and measured the area carefully.
- 5 Rotate seasonal clothes to help manage the overflow. Store out-of-season clothes in another wardrobe, storage containers or sealable space bags.
- 6 Place shoes in pairs with the toes out so your wardrobe looks like a classy department store.
- 7 File magazines and bulky paperwork in magazine holders and boxes instead of hanging files. Organise magazines by title then date (some boxes can hold two years' supply of your favourite magazine). Mix and match colours to coordinate with room colours.
- 8 Separate photo packs with cardboard dividers and label dividers with professional printer labels from a label machine, or handwrite with beautiful handwriting and a colourful pen. Cull the not-so-perfect photos and attach negatives to the back of the divider.
- 9 Create a memorabilia box for every member of the family so you'll have a place to store all keepsakes. Store your favourite cards and letters, treasured mementos from your children and anything that's special to you and your world. Encourage family members to do the same.
- 10 Hang a pomander (fragrant ball) in your wardrobe with a hint of your favourite perfume or essential oil. Très feminine!
- 11 Clear off your bedside table and store recipes, fabric samples and newspaper clippings in specially designed folders. When they're in one place they'll never be lost again.
- 12 Buy large storage baskets to store handbags, bulky knitwear, perfume and makeup. Separate smaller items into groups such as makeup supplies and perfume bottles.
- 13 The bedroom is where we do a lot of thinking. Blu-Tak a black sheet of paper to your wardrobe door or wall and write a "to do" list in white pen. Cross off each item as it is achieved and throw away the paper at the end of each week.
- 14 Make space for your special things and splurge on some linen water and a gorgeous china bowl for your jewellery.

DIY storage solutions

There's a place — and a space — for everything if you know where to look



Elfa chrome drawer frame \$78.25, and large chrome baskets \$49.50, from The Storage Shop.



Water Hyacinth storage box \$39.95, from Bayswiss.

Elfa large beige canvas storage box \$51.40, from The Storage Shop.



Elfa chrome basket \$29.40, and white plastic drawer cubicle \$21, both from The Storage Shop.

Nero clear plastic drawer unit \$49, from IKEA.

Lillian striped canvas hanging organiser \$19, from IKEA.



'Lyckeby' blue storage box (part of a set) \$29, from IKEA.

Lyckeby striped storage box set \$19, from IKEA.



Bastant rattan baskets, \$12 each, from IKEA.



Seagrass storage tray boxes, extra large \$34.95 and large \$27.95, from Bayswiss.



Wood and chrome shoe rack \$91, from The Storage Shop.



STOCKISTS
 IKEA Sydney 02 9313 6400,
 Melbourne 03 8416 5000, Brisbane
 07 3340 2000 www.ikea.com.au
 The Storage Shop 02 9389 2577
www.thestorageshop.com.au
 Bayswiss 02 8595 6111
www.bayswiss.com.au