

Better Closet Systems Bring Order To Busy Households

(NAPSA)—The cure for closet clutter often seems as elusive as a cure for the common cold—but it's out there. Even among new homeowners, lack of closet space is a chief complaint, according to the National Association of Home Builders. And it's no wonder. In today's fast-paced world, wading through personal clutter on a daily basis interferes with the speed of life.

Time-pressed and space stressed, Americans are seeking order on the home front, one closet at a time.

"People recognize that chaos slows them down, and they're looking for storage solutions that simplify their hectic lives," says Susan Dountas, vice president of merchandising for Sauder.

The key to an organized closet is making the most of the space available. Design leader Lynette Jennings suggests several guidelines for maximizing closet space:

- Expand storage options vertically and horizontally. "Look up and down, right and left," Jennings suggests. "Add storage units and racks to under-utilized areas for a dramatic increase in shelf and hanging space." An existing closet can be transformed into a jumble-free zone by adding organizer units like the versatile Clofits Modular Storage System. Based on the dimensions of a cube, but available in varying sizes, the portable components



A closet's full storage potential is realized with a modular organizing system.

can be configured into an almost endless number of clutter-busting solutions. The system's drawers, shelves and adjustable width rods expand storage potential in closets of all sizes.

- Group apparel and accessories by activity. "This is a simple time-saver for today's multifaceted lives," says Jennings. "For example, put workout clothes in one section and Casual Friday office outfits in another." Once items are categorized, it's easier to determine if extra organizers—such as belt racks or sock dividers—are needed to create customized storage for individual needs.

- Aim for convenience. "An easy-to-use system automatically saves time," Jennings notes. "For example, keep the items you wear most often front and center in

your closet to avoid wasting precious minutes hunting for a certain blazer or a favorite scarf." Create a convenient, centralized dressing area by moving dressers and mirrors close to the closet. This saves time when you're putting on and putting away clothes.

- Opt for visibility. "Visual aids reinforce organization and speed wardrobe planning," Jennings says. Arranging items by color within each category—from power suits to lingerie—makes it easier to dress for a meeting or pack for a trip. Open shelves, clear containers and double hung racks for shirts and slacks keep choices in plain view for quick retrieval. "Don't forget to install a light in the closet to brighten the area," Jennings adds.

- Look ahead. Save time now—and later—by choosing portable, easy-to-install components. For example, the hassle-free Clofits system designed by Sauder and Jennings requires no drilling and no wall screws or other attachments, making it easy to put in—and easy to take out and reconfigure as needs change. Despite a built-in look, the fully customizable components are value-priced so that a standard eight-foot closet can be converted to a full-storage space for as little as \$300.

"The clutter-free closet has never been so accessible," Dountas notes. "Organizing personal space helps people take control of their fast-paced lives."