


THE KNOWLEDGE

Walk-in wardrobes

You don't need the shoe collection of Imelda Marcos to require a bespoke storage solution. Here's our comprehensive guide to creating your dream closet

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Why have one? A walk-in wardrobe is a practical storage option. Think of Sarah Jessica Parker's closet in *Sex and the City* or be inspired by websites such as The Coveteur (thecoveteur.com), which offers a sneak peek inside top tastemakers' spaces. Storing clothes, shoes and accessories in this way allows you to stay organised, keep everything in optimum condition and see belongings at a glance. What's more, it can be a big selling point for properties.

How do I find the space? Contrary to popular belief, you don't need a lot of room. The minimum depth required is 120 centimetres: this provides enough capacity to accommodate rails and shelves while allowing you to walk up and down inside. Julia Dee of The Wardrobe Curator (thewardrobeurator.co.uk) suggests moving your bed away from the wall and building a stud wall behind it, with an entrance at one end. You could

also consider unused areas such as spare rooms, attics or stairwells.

How do I plan it? First, count how many clothes you own to help work out the number of storage devices you'll need. Then think about the types of garments you have, and identify which ones will need to be hung, folded or stacked. Don't forget to allow room for new purchases.

Is it expensive? It depends on how you build the wardrobe. Touch Design Group (touchdesigngroup.com) creates bespoke solutions to suit medium to high budgets. Or choose a luxury off-the-shelf system by Riva 1920 (riva1920.it), Molteni & C (molteni.it) or Rimadesio (rimadesio.it). A cheaper alternative is to build your own using high-street components: Ikea's 'Pax' system (from £53 for a unit; ikea.com) can be converted into a walk-in wardrobe by removing the doors. You could also try hanging garments on a freestanding rail: designer Annaleena

Karlsson has a good selection (from £165 each; annaleena.se). Floating shelves, such as Habitat's 'Level' designs (from £50 each; habitat.co.uk), are great for storing folded items. Retail displays can offer inspiration: fixing shelving to the wall opens up your space and keeps costs down. Go one step further and use salvaged shop materials (try D & A Binder; dandabinder.co.uk).

What about storing accessories? Shoes are generally best presented on static or slide-out shelves. For jewellery or smaller items, Karlsson suggests putting clear compartments on a shelf so that you can see everything at once. Try Muji's range (from £5.50 for a flip-top drawer; muji.eu) or Hay's glass 'Bits and Bobs' bowls (from £5 each; hayshop.dk). Drawer dividers also help to maintain order; The Holding Company's 'Dream Drawer Organiser' comes in a set of two (£24.95; theholdingcompany.co.uk). **ED**

INSIDER GUIDE: MOTH CONTROL

Cedarwood is a tried-and-tested moth repellent, but it should be used in moderation because of the natural oils it contains. Julia Dee of The Wardrobe Curator warns against putting your clothes directly on cedarwood surfaces. Instead, accent your space with cedarwood panel inserts, for example by lining the back wall or drawer fronts. You may also want to consider using cedarwood shoe lasts, which will diffuse the fragrance upwards to help repel moths naturally. Brilliant Project (brilliantproject.co.uk) recommends using pheromone traps (try Pest Control Direct; pestcontroldirect.co.uk). These emit an odourless hormone signal that traps male moths so that they are less likely to mate, reducing the chances of females laying eggs in your knitwear or textiles.

