

## 2013 in 2013 Declutter Challenge

### April is the Month of Wardrobes (and shoes... and accessories...)

Welcome to Month #4, which is all about the wardrobes which, for many, are inextricably tied with emotion.

The passage of time, the changes we move through as we grow older and perhaps have kids, fluctuating waistlines, failures and wins, periods of happiness or sadness, health or illness. The clothes we wear can conjure up all sorts of emotions.

So bearing all that in mind... let's dive in!

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The amount of time you need to set aside for this month's challenge depends on:

- your current wardrobe situation - is it stuffed to the brim with clothes, or is it manageable?
- your current circumstances - do you have lots of different clothing needs (officewear, exercise gear, weekend wear) or do you wear similar clothes most days?
- the number of kids you have, if any.
- whether you will be tackling your partner's wardrobe too (hint: let them see your efforts pay off first, they may be inspired into action themselves.)
- your goals - do you want a minimalist capsule wardrobe, or are you simply looking to clear out the items that are no longer worn?

As a ballpark figure though, I suggest you put aside 2-3 hours for your wardrobe (easily broken up into smaller chunks), plus an extra 1-2 hours for your kids.

For most decluttering projects I'd suggest following the guidelines from Month #1 ([find them here](#)), and while they're still relevant to your wardrobe, I know many of you struggle with how to begin. So I've put together a specific outline for how to tackle both your wardrobe and those of your family.

**NOTE: If your kids are older - teenagers or beyond - feel free to print this list off and give it to them. There's no reason you should be left to do this task alone!** (Then they can harbour any ill-will towards me, instead of you!)

**Again, you should aim to spend anywhere from 2-3 hours on your wardrobe**, and maybe slightly less on your kids'. This all depends on the size and current state of it.

# How to Declutter Your Wardrobe

There are two ways to go about decluttering your wardrobe, depending on the time you have on hand and the space within which you can work.

**Before you do anything though, grab three plastic bags or boxes. One is for donations, another for throwing away (items that aren't redeemable or cannot be repaired) and the third for storage (items you aren't sure about yet).**

Once you've got those in place, you can either:

1. Work your way through each section of the wardrobe one by one - not moving on until the current section is complete and items returned - OR
2. Clear your bed and dump the entire contents of your wardrobe there, working through the pile piece by piece.

**Either way, commit to not putting anything back until you have asked yourself:**

- **Have I worn this in the last year?** No? Then let it go.
- **Is it in good condition? If not, do I love it enough to have it repaired?** No? Let it go.
- **Do I feel good wearing this?** This is a big one – it doesn't matter how beautiful it is, unless you feel good wearing it, it will languish in the back of your wardrobe, taunting you. Let it go.
- **Does it fit me well?** Again, it doesn't matter how gorgeous it is or how much it cost, if it doesn't fit well, then you won't wear it. Let it go.
- **Is there a good reason to keep it?** If it is in incredibly good condition, is very well made, and is a classic style (think black blazer, little black dress, black pumps) then you may want to keep it. But unless it is all of those things, then let it go.

3. Don't put the item down until you've decided where it goes. If you decide to keep it, return it to the correct spot in your wardrobe, otherwise put it in your donate or throw away bag, or - if you're really torn - your storage box.

NOTE: Once you're done decluttering, put the 'storage' box away for six months (put a reminder on your phone or in your diary). If there's nothing you need/want in it over that time, donate everything in there, without opening it.

4. Once you've finished going through your wardrobe, you can quickly look over the contents of your 'storage' box and weed out anything you've kept in a weak moment. I find that once I'm in the zone, decisions come much more easily.

# The April Checklist

Print this checklist off and work through it over the course of the month.

## Your Wardrobe/Partner's Wardrobe

Folded items:

- Underwear
- Sleepwear
- Exercise gear
- T-shirts
- Jeans
- Knitwear

Hanging items:

- Dresses
- Skirts
- Pants
- Jackets
- Shirts/Tops
- Suits
- Occasional items - formal wear

Accessories:

- Belts
- Scarves
- Jewellery
- Miscellaneous
- Shoes

Items in Storage:

- Seasonal clothes
- Seasonal accessories
- Limited use clothes - maternity wear
- Sporting wear - snow gear, fishing gear

[Project 333](#) is a minimalist wardrobe project you should check out for tips and suggestions.

[This post](#) on Styling You outlines how to create a minimalist, fashionable wardrobe. [Read it here.](#)

Kids Wardrobes:

- Underwear
- Sleepwear
- Gardening/craft clothes
- T-shirts
- Jeans/pants/leggings
- Shorts
- Dresses
- Jackets
- Skirts
- Hoodies
- Too-large items
- Too-small items

For added tips and suggestions on dealing with the clutter in your kids' wardrobes, check out [this post](#) from the Slow Your Home archives.

**Remember:** Keep count of the items you recycle, donate, sell or throw away and share your progress with us in the [2013 Declutter Challenge forums](#).