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*Darla joins the Window
Covering Association of
America– NJ Chapter this
month to help them see
organizing possibilities in
tight workspaces.*

*Call today to schedule a
workshop customized for
your group.*

Closet Creativity

What a lovely home but, oh, those closets! I hear the same thing whether I'm in a two-hundred year old house or a top of the line, newer model. There's never enough storage for today's busy families. Did you know that the closet industry is \$1 billion and growing (www.closetmaid.com) No wonder, when the average woman owns about 30 pairs of shoes (Allison Carter, NAPO member). But that's only half the story. She's often sharing the closet with a man, and he's got at least that many pairs!

A professional organizer can help you find the best uses for your space, for everything from clothes to critters, office to overflow, pool gear to party favors. Learn more and [request](#) your free copy of "31 Simple Tips for Organizing Space,

Consider This:

Closet storage solutions come in a mind-boggling set of options:

- Simple hooks, bars & shelving
- Wire systems
- Cedar shelving
- Adjustable track systems
- Melamine & MDF solutions
- Custom wood cabinetry
- Slat-wall systems with accessories

How to Choose a Storage System

A dead giveaway for underutilized closets is the back wall. Yep, if we can see the back wall (top, middle, or bottom), it isn't full! If you are feeling cramped, it might be a case of under-utilization rather than over-filling.

- First, determine what is to be stored in the space. Seems simple enough, but this might take some doing if stored items are currently scattered.
- Get out the measuring tape. Take some measurements and be realistic about what will fit. It might be time to let some things go if space is tight.
- Evaluate the different materials. (see left)
- Determine if you have the skills and tools to install a system yourself. If not, save the headaches and hire a professional organizer or closet company.
- Measure the space for the system.
- Negotiate with others if you are sharing the space. Remember, closet systems let you divide up the space for different purposes, so be flexible!
- Measure again.
- Order or purchase the system.
- Install.
- Add lighting if the space is still dark or difficult to navigate.
- Enjoy your newly found space!

Simple Tip:

Sort and purge before investing in any closet system, saving money by seeing just what you need to store.

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