

# stretch storage space

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# Stretch Storage Space

By Judy Burrige, Extension Home Economist

Are you always looking for places to put things? Do you constantly fight clutter? Perhaps you need to plan for better use of space by "stretching" existing storage. This booklet can help you.

## *PLOT A Plan by Considering:*

- Space you have available.
- Items to be stored in the space.
- Resources, such as storage accessories or money to buy accessories.

## *ACTIVATE Your Plan by Applying These Storage Principles:*

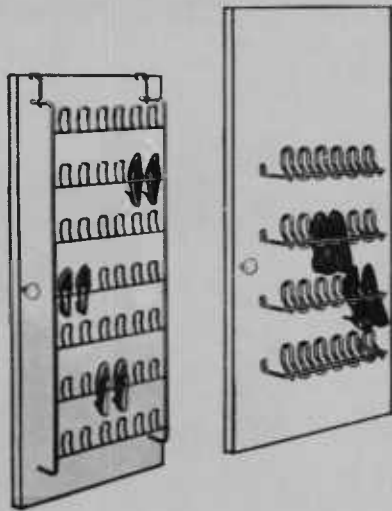
- **GET RID OF UNUSED ARTICLES** by discarding. Clothing and equipment used seasonally should be put in "dead" storage such as the garage, attic or basement.
- **STORE ARTICLES AT POINT OF FIRST USE**, either in the room or area used or in a central location such as a linen or cleaning closet.
- **STORE AT CONVENIENT HEIGHT THE ITEMS USED MOST OFTEN.** This is the height between eye and hip level. Store heavy items at waist level or below.
- **REARRANGE SPACE TO FIT ARTICLES TO BE STORED.** Store similar items by stacking, or by placing one behind the other. Store unlike items either one row or one layer deep.
- **PLAN FOR FLEXIBILITY OF STORAGE SPACE** by using adjustable shelving, sliding trays or storage accessories.

# Bedroom Storage Accessories

Research tells us that each family member needs a minimum of four feet of rod space on which to hang clothes. If this is not available in the bedroom closet, stretch space by the following methods:

- DISCARD seldom used clothes.
- STORE seasonal or evening clothes in a spare closet, suitcase or trunk.
- HANG coats or outdoor clothes in entrance or utility closets.
- ADD rod space by hanging a second rod 30" above the floor on which "separates" may be hung.
- USE closet accessories to take advantage of vertical space such as hangers which hold 3 to 5 blouses or skirts.
- BUY an armoire\* or a portable clothes rack if no closet space is available.

\* A piece of furniture that serves as a large cupboard or closet, generally considered traditional, but presently being revived.

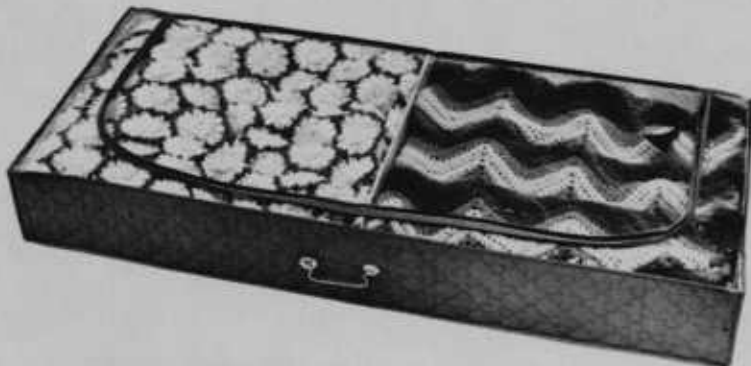


**HINGED DOORS** on closets help stretch space because accessories may be attached to them on which clothes hangers, ties, belts, gloves and scarves may be hung or shoes stored.

**SHELF SPACE** above clothes rods can be organized so that items are easily accessible. Step shelves enable one to see what is available. A step shelf is a half shelf which enables a homemaker to utilize a back of a shelf as well as gain horizontal shelving. Hats and wigs may be stored on styrofoam wig stands to retain their shape.

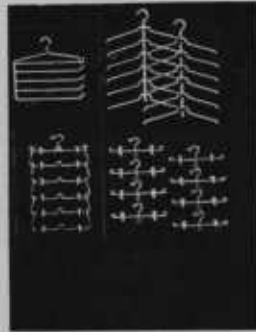
**DRAWERS** can be made to stretch space and keep everything in its place by use of dividers and sliding trays. Ideally, shallow drawers are best as items do not have to be layered. A deep drawer can be made more efficient by the installation of a sliding tray. Drawer dividers make for ease in keeping items sorted. Lingerie and like items are stored more efficiently if rolled before placing in drawer.

**UTILIZE** the space under the bed to store blankets, linens or seasonal clothing in protective boxes.





**Additional rods** may be purchased to add to closets for separates. Pictured are two types: one that is installed into the closet with screws. The other uses a spring and suction cups.



**Use closet** accessories to take advantage of vertical space.



**For rooms** without closets, buy a portable closet.



**Portable clothes racks** can be covered with clear plastic to protect garments from dust.



**Suspended skirt** or pants hangers give additional rod space to closets.

Portable storage accessories come in a variety of styles, finishes and color.

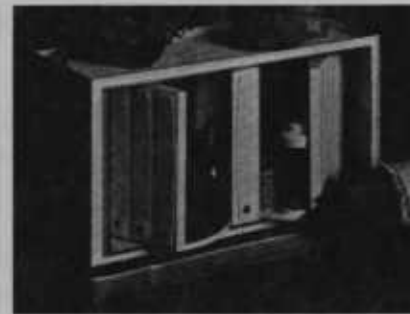




## Bathroom Storage

Soaps, cosmetics, towels and other bathing supplies are often found stored in central linen closets or bedrooms. Ideally, they are more conveniently located in the bathroom. Often this is a problem as many bathrooms do not have built-in storage.

The use of a pole shelf and cabinet as a divider or over the toilet can give added space. Top of tank storage units can be purchased to stretch storage space. Other storage stretchers are wall hung shelves and medicine cabinets.





## Linen Storage

If linen storage is not built into the home, the best alternative is to store linens in a chest of drawers. Another way of solving the problem would be to reserve drawer space in each bedroom for a change of bed linens. Shallow drawers are suitable for place mats and other table linens.

For more information on storage see the Extension home economist at the Cooperative Extension office in your country.

Other storage publications are:

PNW 47 "Better Kitchen Storage"

EC 804 "Storage Accessories on a Low-Cost Budget"

EC 805 "Storage for Kids' Stuff"