



**Do This First:
Call for Backup**

Recruit a friend who will be honest about the fact that your mullet dress deserves the heave-ho. "Another set of eyes can help you move much faster," says Amy Trager, a professional organizer in Chicago.



If it has a built-in loop in the collar, it should be hung.

THE LIST: THE REJECT PILE

Once it's a "no," where should it go?

GOOD STUFF THAT YOU'RE JUST OVER:

Clothes-swap party! "Get together with friends around your size for this," says Trager.



WORN-ONCE COCKTAIL DRESS:

Bring it to a secondhand store. If it's in great condition, fashionable, and in season, you could get about 15 percent of the retail price when it sells, says Jeanne Stafford of consignment boutique Second Time Around.

YOUR FIRST POWER SUIT:

Donate to Dress for Success, a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged women suit up for, then ace, job interviews. DFS affiliates are nearly nationwide, but if there isn't one where you live, research local equivalents, like Philadelphia's Career Wardrobe.

Spring Closet Cleaning

De-cluttering tips even hoarders can adhere to



MASTER THIS:

What Stays, What Goes

There are pieces you'll hold on to forever, like a classic leather jacket or your prom dress (ah, memories). But for the rest, ask yourself tough questions, says Jamie Novak, author of *1,000 Best Quick and Easy Organizing Secrets*. Does it fit? Is it comfy? And here's a big one: **If you saw it in the store today, would you buy it again?** If the answer to any of these is no, out it goes.

HOOKUP CULTURE

"Hooks are everything in a closet," says *WH*'s fashion director, Jacqueline Azria, who recommends 3M Command adhesives rather than nails. "They keep hangables off the floor and help you see more of your accessories and bags." Use them solo or make them multipurpose with these tips.

HOOK + STURDY HANGER

Place a hanger on the hook, then drape scarves or belts side by side on it. They'll all be visible at once instead of hidden in a pile.

HOOK + PLASTIC RINGS

Link a set of shower-curtain rings, then hang the top one from a hook. Slide drapables (like tees) through each to maximize vertical space.

HOOK + MINI POUCH

Store shirt buttons, shoe inserts, or little extras in a small bag hung on a hook so you know where to find them immediately.



Pro Tip: Divide and Conquer

"Never pull everything out of your closet all at once," says Novak. You'll run out of time, motivation, or both. **Instead, set a timer for 15 to 20 minutes and try to get through just one section, like your jeans or your jewelry, in one sitting.**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GREG BRIDGEMAN/GETTY IMAGES; JACQUE AZRIA/ALAMY STOCK; DAVID COOK/ALAMY; JACQUE AZRIA/ALAMY; JACQUE AZRIA/ALAMY