Tame your Shoe Collection with these Organization Products by Justin Karmie

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There is nothing worse than running late in the morning and not being able to find the right pair of shoes. But if your shoe collection was organized and stored properly, you would never have that problem again.

How to choose

The shoe organizer you select depends on how many pairs of shoes you have. Some people keep their collection to three or four pairs. For these people, a simple shoe rack in the bottom of the closet may suffice. Still others, who divide their shoes by the seasons, will need larger systems to keep their shoes properly organized.

There are other benefits than simply keeping your shoes organized. Some products actually encase your shoes and will keep them from getting dusty. This is especially important if the shoes are suede. Other organizers are open and let the air get to your shoes, even when they are not in use. This is nice, especially for your athletic shoes. And in some climates, the humidity can really give your leather shoes problems. Better to store them properly.

Some people simply hang onto the shoe boxes their shoes come in. While the box keeps them dust free, you cannot see through cardboard and you may forget what the shoe looks like or what you own. It's far better to use a set of 12 clear plastic shoe boxes. They stack nicely and let you see your choices at a glance. Each box measures 13Â¾ inches long by 8Â¼ inches wide and 4Â¾ inches tall.

Another dust-free solution is an under-the-bed bag. It's clear, so you can see the shoes, but zips closed to keep up to 16 pairs of shoes from getting dusty or moist. Dividers within the bag keep the shoes from landing in a heap. At just 6 inches tall, the bag fits under most beds. When you want a specific pair, simply pull on the rope handle and pull out the bag from under the bed. This system is especially good for those who separate their shoes by season. In the winter time, why take up space in your closet for sandals and open-toed shoes. Likewise, in the summer time, why keep out your snow boots? This vinyl sack measures 40 inches wide by 24 inches tall.

Boot organizers

It is one thing to store shoes away, but what can you do about your boots - other than throwing them in the corner of your closet? Now there is a shoe and boot valet that can be tucked into a closet or left to stand alone that will keep your footwear tidy and under control. The valet features six rows of shelving to store up to 18 pairs of shoes, as well as six boot poles on which to store three pairs of boots. At just 22 inches wide and 59Â½ inches tall, this vertical valet will easily fit in small spaces.

If boots are your biggest concern, try the freestanding boot organizer. This steel-framed storage unit features pockets that can be adjusted to hand your tall, mid-calf and short boots. You move the pockets around to fit your needs. It holds up to six tall pairs of boots. If you shorten the pockets to store shorter boots, you can use the leftover space for shoes. This attractive system is nice enough to leave out in the hall or mud room to collect boots as people come in. It measures 41Â½ inches high by 23 inches wide and 15 inches deep.

Speaking of mud rooms, try a system of bins in that room to collect boots, hats and gloves and other items as people come in from the cold or the rain. Each mud room bin has three angled cubbies. Stack one bin on top of the other to find the right system for your household. The bins are made of

melamine particle board, so they are sturdy enough to take the wear and tear. Each bin is 15Â½ inches wide by 11Â½ inches tall and 9Â½ inches deep. Some assembly is required.

Over-the-door

If you have run out of closet space, consider an over-the-door shoe rack that can hold up to 24 pairs of shoes. This white resin rack has a nonslip pad to keep it from scratching the door and nonslip coated steel bars on which you can hang your shoes. No assembly is required. It measures 53 inches tall by 21 inches wide. It sticks out about 8 inches from the door. There are also smaller racks that hold up to 18 pairs of shoes.

As you can see, there is no reason to keep a messy pile of shoes in the bottom of your closet - or kicked under your bed. Analyze your shoe collection and see which system will work best for you.

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Justin Karmie - About Author:
Justin Karmie is a freelance writer who writes about home maintenance topics and products for a shoe organizers.

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