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Closet Suggestions for Bedding and Linen

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Storage is such an important matter in the home that it should be considered when the house plans are made. Few families, however, are fortunate enough to enjoy the results of such planning. Therefore, ways and means must be devised for adding more permanent or temporary storage spaces to houses which have already been built.

The type and location of the various storage spaces within the house are closely related to the expenditure of both energy and time. A knowledge of the essential requirements for adequate storage of bedding and towels in the home is necessary before satisfactory space can be planned. One factor which influences these requirements is the number of people in the family, as well as the amount to be stored.

A storage closet is most usable when it opens directly into a hall, and when it is located on the same floor with the bedrooms. Unless the closet is located in a corner double doors are better than a single one.

**Fittings:** Trays or drawers are desirable for all articles in frequent or occasional use. The chief advantage of trays over drawers is that they may be placed on supports adjustable as to distances apart. Trays have a decided advantage over shelves in making contents visible and accessible, and should be used in closets over 18 inches deep.
Shelves may be used at the top of the closet, since this space is not readily accessible and is only suitable for articles seldom used. Shelves should be readily removable and adjustable as to distance apart. A sorting shelf is a convenience. It may be a drawer front or compartment front-hinged at the bottom, or a board which fits under a shelf.

**USE OF SPACE** - Several low piles of sheets, pillowcases, and towels are more convenient than fewer high ones. The household supply usually includes articles varying in size or texture, and housekeepers often have special towels and bed linen for the use of guests or for the baby. It should be possible to get at the desired article without moving many others.

A convenient method of storing a coverlet or blanket is to fold it once lengthwise, then roll tightly. Pillows occupy much less space if rolled tightly and tied. Some families have large supplies of blankets and coverlets which are seldom used. If made of wool, these should be stored in moth-proof containers, or kept in an airtight closet or chest.

It is often wise to allow space in the central closet for articles other than bedding. If the closet is on the first floor, a drawer for un-ironed clean clothes may be desirable. The upper shelves of the closet are useful for holiday decorations, wrappings and boxes for gifts, and toys temporarily put out of the sight of children. A drawer or tray for clean clothes is a convenience.

**DIMENSIONS** - A depth of 18 to 30 inches accommodates articles commonly stored in bedding closets, including sheets and spreads as they are usually folded after ironing. If bed coverings and pillows are kept elsewhere, the closet may be only 14 inches in depth.

A desirable width is 36 inches. This accommodates most blankets and coverlets (folded once) and pillows. In determining distances between shelves or trays, allowance should be made for space at the top of a pile of articles as follows:

- Shelves at elbow height or above ............... 4” open space
- Shelves below elbow height ................... 6” " "
- Drawers or trays .................................. 2” " "

These allowances are for space above articles in frequent use. No allowance is required for articles infrequently used. A desirable distance between shelves that are 15 to 18 inches deep is 10 inches. If shelves are 24 inches deep, they should be at least 12 inches apart. The sorting shelf may be from 30 to 40 inches from the floor.

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