

# Linen Closet

If your shelves are a mess, don't throw in the towel. "Create a system that works for you," says Lorie Marrero of clutterdiet.com. For starters, think about what you use most often, then make sure those items are the most accessible. Additional tips for creating a chaos-free closet:

- Take everything out and sort into categories: blankets, pillows, towels, sheets and overflow from the bathroom vanity. Find a different home for everything else, including candles, lightbulbs and cleaning supplies.
- Store seasonal items like beach towels and heavy blankets on the top shelf. Reduce bulkiness with vacuum-seal storage bags, which shrink contents to one-third their size.
- Arrange towels by size on a middle shelf. Instead of folding, try rolling them to save space.
- Stack sheets grouped by bed size on a shelf at waist level so they're easy to grab. Label shelf accordingly.
- Place bottles and toilet paper in bins on the bottom shelf and floor. Put smaller items like medicine higher up but where you can still read the labels.
- Teach the kids Marrero's "pancake flipper method" for neatly removing sheets from a pile. "Pretend your hand is a spatula," she says. "Slide it palm up into the stack just above what you want and lift linens like a pancake. Use your other hand to pull out items." —Lindsey St. Clair

✓ **TIP** Old sheets and towels, which can be used for cleaning, should be stored in another place.

