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Providing Places to Keep Things



*Save time and energy for the
things you want to do*

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
EXTENSION SERVICE
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Brookings, S. D.

PROVIDING PLACES TO KEEP THINGS

by

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"If we had all the time that we have wasted hunting for things at our house, the whole family could take a month's vacation," exclaimed a homemaker recently.

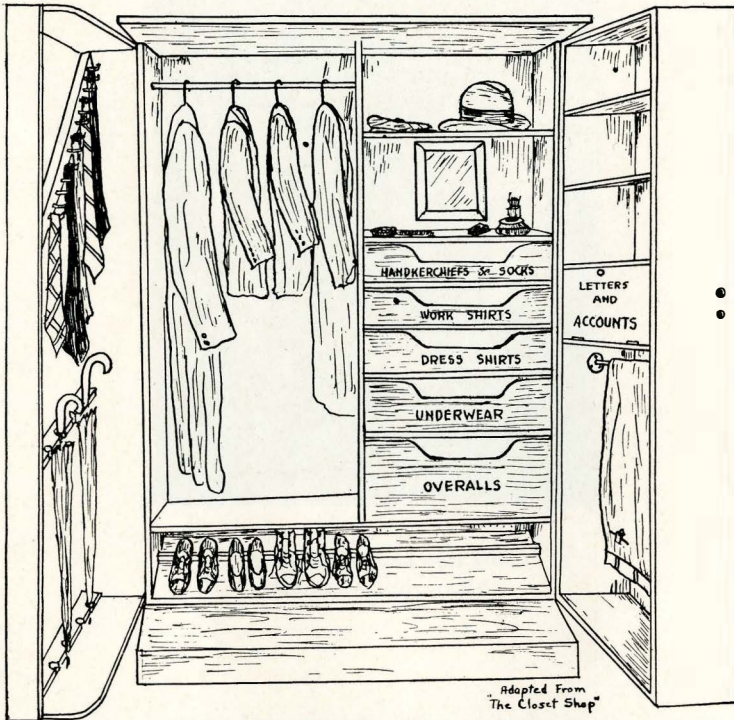


Fig. 1.—A well-equipped shallow closet is a space saver.

Convenient places to keep things do more than conserve time and energy. They are a vital factor in character building. Places to keep one's belongings help to develop respect for personal rights. They give new joy in possession and a feeling of responsibility for the preservation of

things. Well preserved possessions are a stabilizing factor and one of the strongest ties which bind the individual to the home. An orderly home environment helps to develop appreciation of beauty and habits of order. Such richness of living is something which money cannot buy but which parents can give to children at little cost.

The market is full of interesting pieces of furniture and devices for the storage of things. Many of them are desirable but the prices are often prohibitive. Good substitutes may be made in the home. Everyone has the desire to create. Why not create something for the home? Often home-made pieces surpass the commercial ones in convenience because they are designed to meet special needs. While they may not be works of art none need to lack simple beauty.

Clothes Closets

All should know the satisfaction of a well-equipped clothes closet. If there is no closet in your room, one can be built inexpensively from wall board. The new type shallow closet (Fig. 1) is space saving and convenient. It is difficult to store many things in the unequipped deep closet and keep them in order. A well-equipped deep closet is shown in Fig. 2. Notice the utility case stool which can be used to reach the shelves. Provision is made for shoes and hats in both closets. Any of the features of these closets can be adapted to your own. Soft yellow, cream, peach, tan, or gray are good background colors for closets. Plain rather than figured materials are better for the walls, curtains, and bags if the closet is small and filled with vari-colored garments. The plain harmonizing color helps to impart an air of order while figured and bright colored materials give a feeling of disorder.

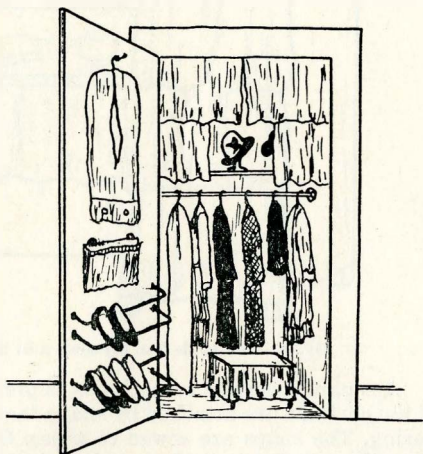


Fig. 2.—The deep closet must be well equipped to be convenient.

Dressing Case Unit

Often girls and boys do not have ample space to keep their personal belongings in order. A dressing case similar to Fig. 3 might appeal to the girls and one like Fig. 4 with a mirror placed above it, might be just what the boy needs.

The tiers of the apple box dressing case (Fig. 3) consist of boxes stacked upon each other and fastened together with small nails. They are joined together with a box placed at the desired height.

Eight wooden door stops are used for the legs. Old linoleum, oil cloth or heavy cardboard covers the sides of the tiers giving a smooth surface for paint. If preferred the sides may be covered with brown wrapping

paper or paper grained to resemble finished wood. The inside of the case is painted or papered. If paper is used it should be varnished or waxed.

The case will be more useful if heavy pieces of cardboard about 6 inches wide are tacked across the front of some of the boxes. Divisions similar to those in Fig. 5 may be made to take care of small articles. Open cardboard box trays may be installed by nailing pieces inside the case to support them.

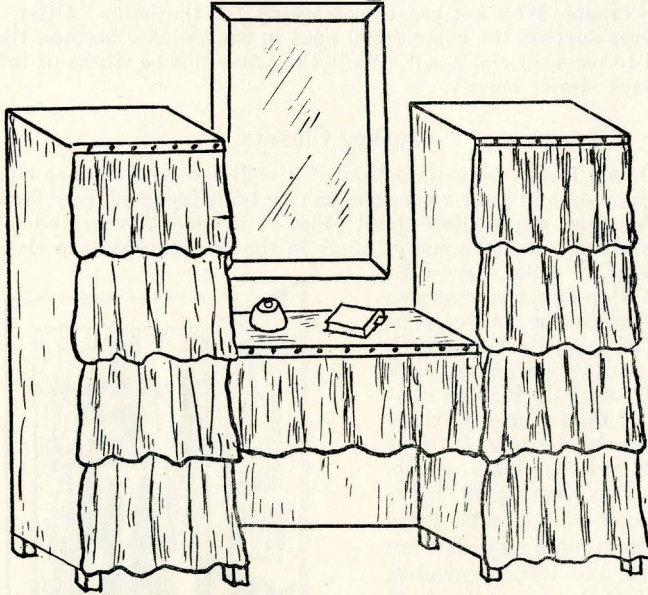


Fig. 3.—The apple box dressing unit is an inexpensive convenience.

A separate curtain on each box is preferable to a long one for each tier. If the curtains are attached by snaps they can be readily removed for laundering. The snaps are sewed to tapes. One tape is tacked to place on the case. The other tape is fastened to the top under edge of the curtains.

Drawer and Box Divisions

If the drawers are partitioned so that like things may be stacked, storage space, time, and energy will be conserved. A partitioned dresser drawer and a stocking box are shown in Fig. 5. Similar boxes may be prepared for beads, buttons, gloves, and handkerchiefs. Pill boxes fitted into a large box make a good trinket case.

Heavy cardboard is used for dresser drawer divisions. They are fastened together with gummed paper or glue. Measure accurately the inside depth and width of the drawer. The divisions must fit snugly without buckling. Two pieces of heavy cardboard are needed for each partition. Cut each piece a half inch narrower than the depth and five inches longer than the width of the drawer. Make sure that sides are true and the corners square. Measure two and a half inches in from each end and draw lines parallel with the edges. Score heavily just inside these lines and bend

at the score as illustrated in Fig. 5. Fasten the pieces together with strips of gummed tape following along the bend and extending over the top and bottom edges. Bind the upper and lower edges with tape and put a strip over the cracks at the ends to prevent spreading. If the pieces are glued together the ends should be covered with a piece of heavy paper. The divisions may be decorated with wall paper, cretonne or paint.

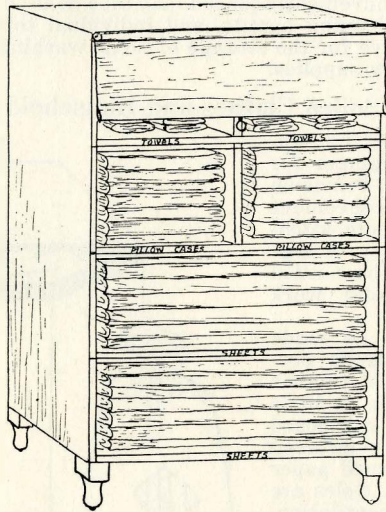


Fig. 4.—A lemon crate case takes care of the linen.

Linen Case

Too often the dresser belonging to mother, father, or guest is so filled with linen that there is no room for personal belongings. A convenient linen case may be made of lemon crates and covered with a washable roller curtain (Fig. 4).

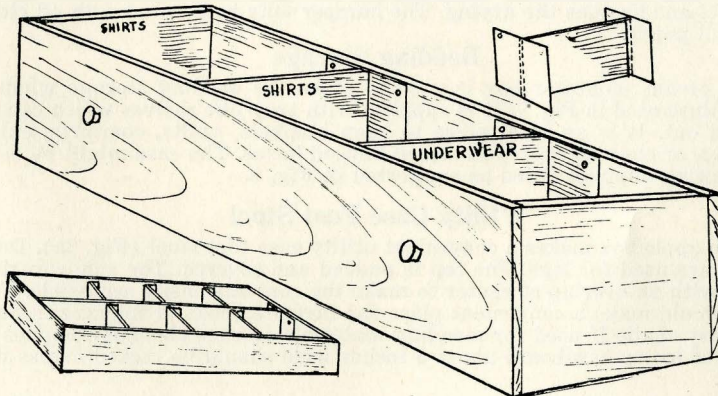


Fig. 5.—Drawer and box divisions are real time and energy savers.

Clean Work Clothes Storage

It is time and energy saving to change work clothes before they are badly soiled. Neglecting to change is often due to lack of clean garments near at hand. A case made of boxes will meet this need if put near the clean-up place.

Toilet and Laundry Supply Storage

Homemade cases conveniently placed may also be used for towels, wash cloths, toilet paper, cleaning agents, and individual toilet supplies. Another group might serve for the storage of soap, washing powder, clothes pins, and other laundry supplies.

Storage for Soiled Clothes and Household Linens

Each bedroom should be supplied with a bag or hamper for soiled clothes (Fig. 6). Provision should be made for convenient care of soiled dining room, kitchen, and bathroom linens. A separate container may be needed for soiled overalls and work shirts.

Laundry bags may be made from flour sacks or strong portions of old garments. Clothes hampers may be made at little cost from tall, heavy cardboard cartons. The edges are reinforced with bindings of gummed paper or firmly woven cloth. Holes are cut in the sides for ventilation. These holes may be covered with pieces of screen wire fastened inside of the box with gummed paper. The holes may be arranged to form part of a decorative design which is painted on after the box has been sized and painted (Fig. 6). Cardboard can be painted without being sized but the sizing prevents the absorption of enamel and hastens the drying. The hamper may be covered with oil cloth or wall paper.

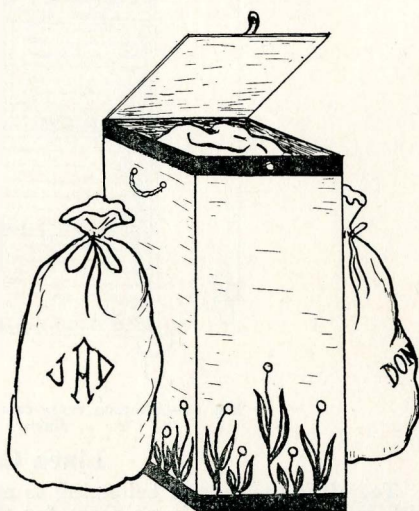


Fig. 6.—Bags or hampers for soiled clothes should be provided.

Bedding Storage

A cream separator box is used to make the bedding storage window seat illustrated in Fig. 7. It is supplied with tray-like shelves which can be pulled out. It is an ideal place to keep blankets, quilts, comforts, extra pillows, or clothing stored in sealed labeled boxes. The case might be used for sewing supplies fitted as suggested in Fig. 8.

Utility Case Foot Stool

An apple box makes a convenient utility case foot stool (Fig. 8a). Door stops are used for legs. The top is padded and covered. The side covering joins with an overlap at center to make the contents easily accessible. The case would make a convenient place for favorite books or magazines near the easy chair. If used for mending materials or shoe cleaning supplies, a piece of heavy cardboard about 5 inches wide should be tacked across the front.

Waste Baskets

Waste baskets in every room are time and energy savers. Attractive ones may be made from old pails, cardboard cans, or boxes (Fig. 8b).

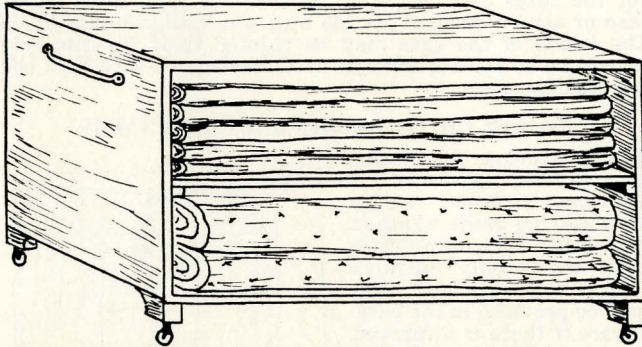


Fig. 7.—The bedding storage window seat can be made at little cost from a cream separator box.

Book Shelves

Book shelves can be easily made out of odds and ends of lumber. Those shown in Fig. 8 are made of 9-inch boards finished to match the woodwork and furniture. The two lower shelves may be covered with a curtain providing storage for toys or labeled boxes containing sewing materials or handicraft supplies.

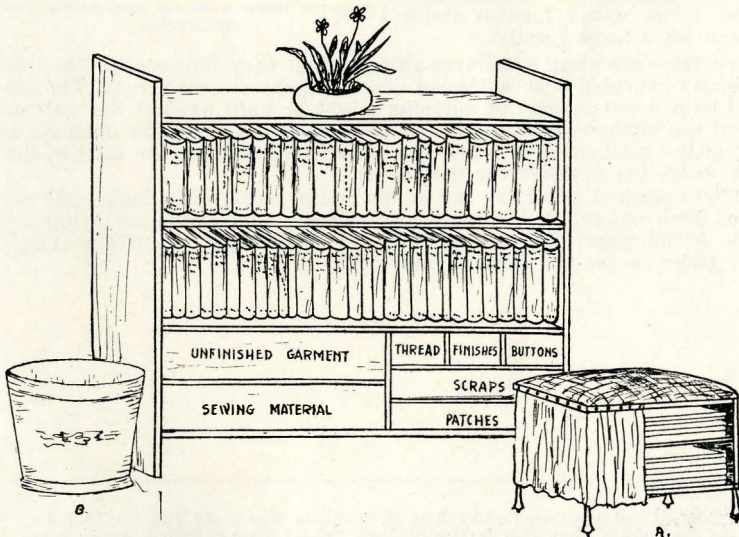


Fig. 8.—Odds and ends of lumber can be made into convenient book shelves.

Boards finished to match the woodwork may be made into shelves by using plain or tapestry faced bricks for the foundation and supports be-

tween the shelves. The shelves can be adapted to the height of the books by varying the number of bricks supporting them.

Places for Toys

Any of the cases described may be used for toys. Each child should have a case or several shelves for his own use. Children usually like gay colors. The inside of the case may be painted their favorite color. The curtain should be of neutral color so as to harmonize with both the interior of case and the room.

Storage for Overshoes and Work Coats

Satisfactory storage for boots, overshoes, and every day coats is a most perplexing problem. They should be protected from weather, warmed in winter, and conveniently placed near the family entrance door. A place for coats and overshoes might be provided in the basement entrance if there is a furnace. Where there is no furnace or heated back hall, the best provision is a small vestibule closet built around the kitchen door, inside or outside of the kitchen. In either case it is heated from the kitchen. The storage case (Fig. 9) is designed for such a vestibule closet. A case placed on either side of the kitchen door and extending across the ends of the closet would furnish ample storage for a large family.

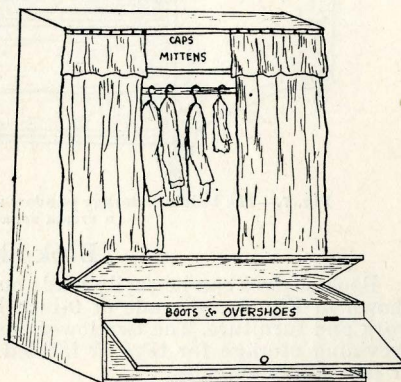


Fig. 9.—A solution for the most difficult storage problem.

The curtains are hung with large rings so that they slide easily. The lower section is provided with a hinged door to make cleaning easy. The case, fitted with doors instead of curtains might be built against the wall outside of the kitchen and heated through a window or register opening into it from the kitchen. A portable case placed inside near the kitchen door, might solve the problem for the renter.

A less efficient provision for wraps and overshoes is a long wide shelf placed high enough to leave space for boots and overshoes below long coats. A rod placed below it extends the full length. A curtain hung on large rings covers the things from sight.