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Organize the Linen Closet

Maintenance:

- Linen closets should be kept cool and dry; warm, humid air can cause organic materials to mildew. If your linen closet is in the bathroom, ventilated wire shelving can help increase air flow between linens.
- Dust shelves twice a month, then thoroughly vacuum the closet floors. Be sure to vacuum along the edges and baseboards with the crevice tool.
- Maximize space by getting rid of any linens you don't use. Donate them to charities or reserve old sheets for drop cloths, and old towels for cleaning; keep these in the basement, garage, or broom closet.
- Close closet doors as much as possible to block dust and direct sunlight, both of which can damage linens.
- Place sachets or cedar blocks on closet shelves to scent linens -- cedar blocks can also help protect against moths. The wood's scent will gradually weaken as the oils evaporate; when this happens, sand the surface to release the aroma.

Organization:

Sort linens into piles: sheets, towels, comforters, blankets, and table linens. Then divide again, as follows:

- Sheets**
Place each set of sheets inside one of its pillowcases. Group by bedroom and stack on shelves. Use the set on the top and put clean sets, fresh from the wash, on the bottom.

Towels

Group by bathroom, then by size (all master bath towels together; all master bath washcloths together). Stack on shelves. Use the towel on the top first, and put clean towels on the bottom, to ensure even wear.

Comforters

Keep them fluffy and dust-free by storing on a roomy shelf in a loose bag that allows air to circulate. Do not compress them or store them under heavy items.

Blankets

Group by bedroom, then by season, with the heaviest blankets on the bottom and the lightweight ones on top.

Table linens

Group by size -- all tablecloths together, all napkins together. You can further group them by season (all holiday items together) or formality (casual linens on top, formal linens underneath).