

Dove Canyon Neighbors

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Dove Canyon

March 2016



As Luck Would Have It
The Clark Family Story

ALSO:
**Spring Clean your
Wardrobe!**

**Remembering
Leslie Collins**



Best Version Media

Photo by Jack Randall



Conquering the Closet Monster

By Allison Barker



When I think of March, I think of Saint Patrick's Day, which makes me think of green, which makes me think of detoxing, which makes me think of cleaning and finally makes me think of cleaning out my closet. Ladies, if you're like me, this is something you should be doing at least twice a year, but ultimately dread. A project that should only take a couple of hours can last an entire weekend because if you're like me, as you're cleaning you find an item you haven't worn in ages and try it on. This leads you to think "I haven't worn this dress in five years, but look how cute it is! I think I'll keep it!" Wrong!! Cleaning out your closet means cleaning out your closet! I've been guilty over the years of keeping something because it was cute or it could make a cute Halloween costume at some point. Unless the item truly has some sentimental value, like your wedding dress, get rid of it.

Here are some tips on how to detox your closet once and for all and options of what to do with your items when you've finished.

The Hanger Game

My rule of thumb is if you haven't worn or used an item for a year, then get rid of it. A year is a true test because you've gone through all the seasons so hopefully all your cozy sweaters were worn and all the cute maxi dresses made an appearance at those summer parties. But if they didn't, implement the hanger game. The hanger game is a little trick to see exactly what you wore within 6 months to a year. Every time you clean out the closet turn the hangers the same way. Once you've worn something, turn the hanger the opposite directions and at the end of the 6 months or year when you look at the hangers the ones that were never turned should go in the hefty bag!

Make a Move

If the Hanger Game is not for you, then try moving your clothes around. If you have an unused closet try hanging the items you wear in there. In 6 months, whatever has not been worn and still hangs in your main closet, probably needs to go. Like the hanger game it takes some effort on your part, but you'll notice how many things are left and can be put to good use elsewhere.

So after you've filled your hefty bags full of your unworn dresses, jeans, boots and handbags, what do you do now? When I was growing up it seemed that Goodwill was the only option. I remember my mom leaving anything she could find in the garage and closets on our doorstep and the Goodwill truck would pick it up. While Goodwill is still one of the best ways to donate your unwanted items, here's a few more options in Orange County.

Consign Baby

While donating your clothing and items to shelters is great and helps many people, sometimes you want to see if you could actually get a few dollars for that beautiful Kate Spade bag that just isn't your style anymore. Or that dress from Forever 21 that still has the tags on it because you swore it looked great in the store, but quite the opposite when you tried it on at home. That's where consignment stores come into play. Consignment stores are popping up all over Orange County and here are two that are looking for very different items to buy:

Uptown Cheapskate in Lake Forest and Fullerton: If you have a ton of gently used trendy clothes or items from Forever 21, Urban Outfitters or Michael Kors, then take them to Uptown Cheapskate. I love this store because they will take the trendy less expensive items

as long as they're in good condition. So look through your closet or better yet, raid your teenage daughter's closet and head over to Uptown Cheapskate!

Filmore & 5th in Dana Point: If your closet represents brands more like Gucci and Prada than Forever 21, then Filmore & 5th is your consignment store. They buy and sell gently used and in good condition high end brands such as Louis Vuitton, Tory Burch and more. They also look for seasonal items and on trend. Along with selling your items you can also find that dream handbag or pair of shoes that were too expensive to buy retail, but now you can finally afford them!

Detox and Donate

A lot of companies offer an incentive to have you donate items that will later go to local shelters they support. One such company is Spa Gregorie's Day Spas and Salons in Newport Beach and Rancho Santa Margarita. Every March they have a "Detox and Donate Retail Sale" where they offer 10% off any 2 full-priced retail items when you donate 2 gently used toiletries or clothing items or 20% off when you donate 3 or more items. All the items are then donated to the Orange County Rescue Mission.

So if you're thinking of keeping a sweater that you wore on the 7th date with an ex-boyfriend, think again and detox that closet! Remember out with the old and in with the new! That means new dresses, shoes, handbags etc.!

Alison has a B.A. in Communications, emphasis Journalism from Cal State Fullerton and is a former reporter for the Orange County Register. Follow her on her blog at www.thefrugalfashionistaofoc.com and see all her daily fashion and style posts by following her on Instagram @thefrugalfashionistaofoc.

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