



Get organized!

A front hallway can be a decorating headache: It's usually a high-traffic area combined with shoe depository and general dumping zone. Here's how you can reclaim it:

ATTACK THE CLOSET

Wendy Hollick, organizational expert in Burlington, Ont., suggests making the front closet a family affair. Install two bars (one high, one low) so kids can hang up coats by themselves. The same goes for shelving units. Set up a couple of shelves lower down so kids can put away slippers and shoes by themselves.

SEASONED EXPERIENCE

No one wants to wrestle with big boots and heavy winter jackets when there isn't snow in the forecast for months. At the end of each season, wash and pack away anything you won't be needing to free up space.

BE RUTHLESS

Get rid of anything that doesn't belong in the hall closet. "Baseball bats, sewing machines, extra cases of water, pop and, yes, even toilet paper, need to go," Hollick says. "Setting zones in your home for belongings allows you to respect the space." And don't let things pile up. Regularly go through the closet and give away any items that your kids have outgrown or no longer wear.

SAY GOODBYE TO CLOSET CLUTTER

Keep hats, mitts and gloves in decorative bins with labels indicating which box holds what. Or assign one box to each child so you won't have to hear anyone whining "I can't find it" ever again.

Espresso **COMPLETE CLOSET SYSTEM**, custom, Loopbox Polka Dot **BASKETS**, \$27, Stripe **BASKETS**, \$10, Aluminum **HANGERS**, \$15 (set of six), Children's Wood **HANGERS**, \$8 (set of 5), Solutions, solutions-stores.ca, (905) 465-1409; Weiser Troy in Satin Nickel **DOOR KNOB**, \$20, The Home Depot. **CLOSET ORGANIZATION**, Wendy Hollick, neatspaces.ca, (905) 336-3874.