

What's Your Hang-up?

by Bernie Burson, AICI, CDI

Most image books that mention closet paraphernalia agree on one thing: “No wire hangers!” Okay, back to the cleaners they go. But then what? I asked several friends and image colleagues what was in their closets. Many people, especially those image consultants who do closets, like the clear plastic hangers with rotating metal hooks that are generally used in clothing stores. Others like wood hangers, and still others prefer good-quality (i.e., thicker) plastic tubular hangers. Some go the mixed media route and use tubular, wood, and padded hangers, depending on what they're hanging.

Then there are the specialty hangers for pants and skirts. Again, there are many fans of the clear plastic hangers with metal hooks and clips (great for skirts and pants), and another camp who like a kind of open-ended hanger with a non-slip crossbar for hanging pants. Some even keep the wire hangers from the dry cleaners that have that cardboard roll across the bottom—they work fine for pants, and don't leave a “hang mark.”

All these I'd seen before. Then a friend showed me her newly-remodeled master bath and closet and began to rave over her new fuzzy hangers. “These are the greatest! Nothing falls off of them, and they take up much less room in the closet.” She pulled one out for my inspection. It had a gold-toned hook and a black velvety body, and was barely ¼ inch thick, but very sturdy. I found out where she got them, and ordered some to try out. Since they come with some detachable clips, ostensibly for skirts, I had visions of transforming my entire closet.

Alas, it was not to be. The clips are completely worthless, so my skirts and pants will stay clipped to their clear plastic bar hangers. However, I do like the fuzzy hangers. They look nice, they're truly non-slip, and you really can get more clothes in less space without a crammed-together look. Since they're so thin, they're ideal for travel. Remember that tip about putting complete outfits on a hanger in your suitcase? This is the hanger to use. They're also great for hanging damp-dry clothes from the dryer.

One caution to those considering a complete closet re-do: My husband hates the fuzzy hangers, mainly because of their non-slip qualities. He likes to yank shirts off of tubular plastic hangers; evidently, he feels it's more efficient. With fuzzy hangers, he would actually have to remove the hanger from the rod in order to get a shirt off of it. Ah, well. He has many other fine qualities that make up for this lack of patience.

Resources: Clear hangers, foam non-slip covers, pant hangers, and open-end hangers can be purchased in bulk at Daniels Display, 1267 Mission St., San Francisco (or online at www.danielsdisplay.com). Fuzzy hangers are available as Huggable Hangers at www.hsn.com, or as Helpful Hangers at www.qvc.com. Huggable Hangers are now available at Target stores, and a similar hanger can be found at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

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