

MillCraft

custom closets
DESIGN GUIDE



MILLCRAFT CUSTOM CLOSETS CLOSET DESIGN GUIDELINES

CONTENT LIST

These design guidelines include a brief description of our closet system, key differences between reach-in and walk-in closets, a variety of tips and photos to get you started.

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OUR CLOSET SYSTEMS

MillCraft Custom Closet frameworks are divided into two systems.

1. One is installed by using a metal hanging strip called a hang rail. The hang rail is anchored into the studs, and panels are attached to the hang rail with brackets. With this system, the hang rail remains visible, so clients will see the rail covered by a colorful hang rail cover.
2. The second one is installed by using backer and screws. Closet case with backer is being fixed to the wall by using screws. With this system, the backer seems visible, so clients will not see the bare wall itself, but will see a backer instead.

FLOOR-BASED OR WALL-HANG?



FLOOR-BASED UNITS

- * There is an additional deck support from the floor.
- * Vertical panels rest on the floor and can be attached to the hang rail or backer.
- * More material is required for bottom shelves and toe fronts.
- * Height measurements need to be more accurate.
- * Baseboard measurements are important because panels may be routed to accommodate the baseboard.

It's important to measure and inform us about the height and depth of the baseboard, indicate whether or not there is quarter-round moulding, and if the floor is carpet or a hard surface. If the closet consists of floor-based units, a notch opening will be applied at the backside of the vertical panels in the manufacturing phase. Thus, closet modules are going to fit and lean to the wall perfectly.

- * If the baseboards are higher than 4" it is often better to install baseboards after the closets are installed (in just the open space where there is no closet system).
- * Do not raise the bottom toe front to match the height of the baseboard because it forces the pole locations to be higher, and consequently harder to reach.

WALL-HANG UNITS

- * Panels do not rest on the floor, which allows for storage of oversized or heavy items on the floor, below the panels.
- * Does not have the custom look of floor-supported systems.
- * Easier to install.
- * Allows latitude in height measurements.

DESIGNING A WALK-IN CLOSET

Walk-in closets can be a simple L-shape with a couple of hanging sections and a few shelves, or an elaborate U-shape with many custom touches. The number of sections is not as much of a consideration as is the placement of different elements throughout the space.



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- * If there is an access panel or another obstacle on the back wall, design a hanging section in front of the panel that allows easy access (so the section spans the width of the access panel).
- * Leave adequate space between the front of the system and the front wall of the closet. The deeper the panels, the harder it is to reach items, because there's less open space in front of the installed structure.
- * If drawers or baskets are to be included, they need to be considered first and located so that they can be fully opened. Keep in mind that this may create a very small (16 to 18" wide) section between the side wall and the drawers, which is hard to access unless there are no return walls.
- * A bank of 18" wide drawers (instead of 24" wide) may improve accessibility.
- * Most top shelves in reach-in closets accommodate large, soft items such as pillows and blankets. Once you install a 14" deep vertical panel, there is only 10" of open "front" space to fit things up and onto the top shelf.

DESIGNING A REACH-IN CLOSET

Reach-in closets are generally wall-to-wall unless there is an obstacle, such as a structural element or a utility panel. When designing a reach-in, the fewer sections you divide the closet into the better, to make items more accessible. Fewer sections also means fewer vertical panels, which helps lower the price (Please check useful numbers to see suggested section spaces).



GENERAL GUIDELINES

- * Plan for a minimum clearance of 24" for a walkway in a closet (between the two sides or around an island). This is narrower than ADA standards, so it may need to be widened if the client has special needs.
- * If the closet is wider than it is long (as you stand in the doorway looking in), start the design process by putting hanging on the short walls.
- * If there is less than 24" between the side wall and the entrance, place shelving, drawers or baskets in this area, as a hanging section will interfere with the doorway.
- * Shoe shelving works well by entrances because shoes are put on last and taken off first as you enter and exit the closet.

- * Determine drawer and/or basket locations. For safety and ease of access, drawers should not be placed behind a door that opens into the closet.
- * Centered on the back wall, in line with the entrance looks nice and allows drawers to open fully.
- * Once drawers and baskets are placed, add hanging spaces and shelving.
- * Avoid placing double hanging in the first section as you enter. The height and width of a section full of clothes tends to create a feeling of narrowness you have to "push through," which is another reason why it works well on the back wall.

Tip: It's a good idea to take plenty of photos of the empty space, paying special attention to obstacles. Photos are great reference tools not only during the design phase, but also during closet installation.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Closets 48" to 71" wide:

- * An "L" shaped design is really the only option.
- * Hanging should go on the back (short) wall.
- * Use the side wall with the deepest return for shelves, drawers or baskets. The other long wall can have hooks.

Closets 72" to 84" wide:

- * Hanging should go on the back wall.
- * Both side walls can be used for hanging, although this configuration provides for only the minimum clearance of a 24" walkway.
- * Placing hanging on only one side wall (with the deepest return) and shelves, drawers and/or baskets on the other side wall is optimal.

Closets over 84" wide:

- * Allows for the most options and configuration choices.
- * The central open area is generally large enough to allow for deeper hutch areas, wardrobe lifts and other accessories.
- * If the closet is 120" wide, a one-sided or narrow island or peninsula can be incorporated.
- * 144" wide allows for a two-sided island or peninsula.

Corner Solutions

Corners need to be planned carefully in a walk-in closet. (Please check useful numbers to see the typical sizes of folded garments).

- * Corners are a good place to put a connector top shelf, which spans the width of the space and allows for a continuous storage shelf around the perimeter.,
- * The easiest solution is to simply allow 24" (minimum) to 30" from the back wall before starting the section on the adjacent wall. This accommodates the depth of the clothing plus a couple of inches for reaching in to get them.
- * Corner units are only available for the shelving units. Avoid using corner hangs (Curved hanging rods can not be provided by MillCraft Custom Closet) going into and coming out of a corner—it creates the feeling of a wall of clothing coming at you!

CLOSET DESIGN TIPS

Short/Double Hang:

- * Hang shorter items on the top pole so they don't overshadow items on the lower pole.
- * Items with big shoulders are better on the lower pole.
- * If the client is petite, using the lower pole for almost everything is preferred. In a shared closet, it works well for the taller person to use the top poles and the shorter person to use the lower poles.

Mid Hang:

- * The pole is placed approximately 50" above the floor, with shelving above.
- * MH is a very effective configuration, as both hanging items and shelf contents are easy to see and to reach.
- * This is also useful for hanging pants by the top or cuff.
- * If the client is petite, MH can serve as LH.
- * Shelves should go above the hanging unless the depth of everything is 24." However, because items tend to get pushed to the back, 24" deep shelves are not very useful.

Long Hang:

- * Always ask if LH needs to be incorporated into the closet, as it is not always necessary.
- * If needed, most people require a width of 18" or less for storage of these items.
- * Adding this additional, small section tends to increase the cost and decrease the effectiveness of the design solution, particularly when space is tight. See if the customer has any other closet where this LH can be stored as it usually nets a more effective design in the space you're working with.
- * Since most people do not wear LH items on a daily basis, locating it in harder to reach or less convenient areas is acceptable. However, be careful not to design a tiny, 18" wide section into a corner with limited accessibility.



Shelves:

- * Shelving provides many of the same storage functions as drawers or baskets, but at a lower price point.
- * Top shelves are best used for large, lightweight and least-used items (such as seasonal items.)
- * Middle shelves (shoulder to waist) are easy to access for the most frequently used items.
- * Bottom shelves (below waist) should house heavier, larger, less frequently used items.
- * Shelving sections that will hold heavy items should not be wider than 24.
- * Pillows, blankets, luggage, plastic bins or storage boxes all work well on 24" deep shelves.
- * Positioning shelves and drawers (rather than hanging) just inside the door of a walk-in creates a more spacious feeling.
- * Putting shelves below hanging is not a recommended storage design.
- * If the installed system is less than 24" deep, the hanging will extend past the shelves and hide whatever is on the shelves. If the installed system is 24," it's still not a good idea because 24" is way too deep for most items. The best solution is to lower the pole and put the shelves above the pole.

Shoe Shelves:

- * Shoe shelves are beautiful and functional. Keep in mind that the angle requires more space between each shelf, so if the client is trying to maximize shoe storage (or has many pairs of boots), standard adjustable shelves may be a better option.
- * Shoe fences or tapes can be used with angled shoe shelves.
- * Shoe fences are only available in 12"-18"-24"-30"-36" lengths. If the shoe shelf unit is out of these sizes, there will be a certain amount of space in both sides of shoe shelves (make sure that the shoes don't fall down before designing this unit).
- * Remember: Shoe shelves really only work for shoes.



Drawers and Baskets:

* There's usually not much difference in pricing between the two, so the decision often comes down to: baskets let you see more of what's inside, while drawers only allow you to see what's on top.

* Hanging shouldn't be placed above drawers unless the drawers are 24" deep—items on a 14" deep shelf tend to get lost under the overhang.

* While there is no standard for drawer placement, consider the person's height when placing a bank of drawers.



Hampers:

* Hamper door should be minimum 26" to give enough space for the tilt-out hamper accessory.

* Because the tilt-out hamper accessory is in 18"-24"-30" width sizes, hamper modules can not be less or more.

Doors:

* Sections need to be a minimum of 24" deep to place doors in front of hang rods.

* If the section has 24" width or more, pair doors should be placed instead of single doors.

* Glass doors should not exceed 50" height. If they do, MillCraft does not guarantee the product, also is not responsible for any negative consequences.



USEFUL NUMBERS

STANDARD CLOSET – HANGING SIZES		
SECTION TYPE	From Deck to Top of the Hanging Space	Width
Double Hang	min 36" – max 80"	min 10" – max 36" (more than 36" width is not recommended)
Medium Hang	min 36" – max 80"	
Long Hang	min 60" – max 80"	

STANDARD CLOSET – DRAWER SIZES			
SECTION TYPE	Height	Depth (drawer box)	Width
Jewelry Drawer	6 1/2"	12"	18", 24" and 30" are the standard sizes (more than 30" width is not recommended)
Standard Drawer	7 1/2"	15" and 18"	
Folder Drawer	10"	15" and 18"	

TYPICAL SIZES OF HANGING GARMENTS	
GARMENT	Total Hanging Space
Skirts	30 – 44"
Dresses	44 – 66"
Blouses	28 – 36"
Her Suits/Jackets	30 – 42"
His Suits/Jackets	38 – 44"
Men's Shirts	38 – 40"
Adult Coats	44 – 66"
Outerwear Jackets	40 – 48"
Pants, hanging long	41 – 52"
Pants, hanging folded	28 – 32"
Formal Dresses	70 – 78"

TYPICAL SIZES OF FOLDED GARMENTS		
GARMENT	Width	Depth
Sweaters, Jeans	10 – 14"	14 – 16"
T-Shirts	10 – 12"	12 – 14"
Towels/Sheets	14 – 16"	14 – 16"
Blankets	18 – 24"	14 – 18"
Shoes – Women's	7 – 8" (avg.)	9 – 11"
Shoes – Men's	9" (avg.)	10 – 14"

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