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## LAUNDRY LOVE

Lauren Civelle, national cleaning buyer for Bunnings, passes on her tips for keeping your laundry neat:

- ✦ Think vertically: mount your machines or take your cabinets right up to the ceiling. Another option is to set your washing machine on a low set of drawers where you can stow detergents and other cleaning gear.
- ✦ One of the most useful inclusions in a laundry is a retractable clothesline for when the weather isn't in your favour.
- ✦ Pop-up or fold-down baskets mean your laundry hampers needn't take up space when they're not in use, rare as that may be.



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## BEDROOM BLISS

"The owners of this Queensland home (above) love to dress well and prioritise keeping their clothes and accessories in order," says Judy Elliott, interior designer with Verandah House ([www.verandahouse.com.au](http://www.verandahouse.com.au)). "Their walk-in wardrobe is the ultimate. There are compartments in the island for ties, jewellery and scarves."

## TRICKS FOR YOUR PICS

Mara Morrison, professional photo organiser with The Filing Fairies ([www.thefilingfairies.com.au](http://www.thefilingfairies.com.au)), offers this advice for protecting your precious memories:

- ✦ "Create a digital photo hub: one location where you store all your original images. Designating a 'hub' is the key to keeping your photos organised and backed up. It can be a master folder on your computer hard drive, an external hard drive or on the Cloud."
- ✦ "Remember that your digital photos may be stored on multiple devices. We have a checklist on our website to ensure you don't miss any."
- ✦ "Preserve your prints by storing them in acid-free albums or boxes in an airtight container in a dry, dark location. A lifetime of photos didn't become disorganised overnight so, realistically, you're not going to be able to sort them out overnight. Allocate a little time each week and you'll eventually get there."

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## EIGHT-MINUTE PLAN

Overwhelmed by the thought of organising your wardrobe? Professional organiser MaryAnne Bennie of In8 ([in8.com.au](http://in8.com.au)) suggests you pop a timer on and break the job down into eight-minute tasks:

- ✦ Focus on your frustrations. "Work out what's most pressing to address and begin there."
- ✦ Break it down. "I strongly suggest you sort one clothing category at a time so you don't end up with your entire wardrobe dumped on the bed. Spend eight minutes on with coats and jackets, the next eight with skirts, then tackle pants and so on."
- ✦ Create a capsule wardrobe. "Choose three bottoms – maybe jeans, pants and a skirt – that don't clash. Then pick out seven tops that match all these bottoms. They could include a singlet, t-shirt, patterned top, jacket and cardigan. Do this and you'll have up to 30 outfits at your fingertips."
- ✦ Get smart. "Keep rolled-up hosiery in zip-lock bags to prevent a tangle of stockings in your underwear drawer. And always hang shirts with the top button done up, it helps keep their shape."

*'Take things to the next level by adding layers of organisation. Section your wardrobe by season, by colour and by length.'* MaryAnne Bennie, professional organiser