



HOW TO STORE your bulky winter clothes

Y'know, instead of just shoving them under your bed

We understand. Packing away your winter coats and jumpers probably isn't high on your to-do list. And yes, we'd rather be out in the sun getting some precious vitamin D too. But think about it this way: putting cold-weather clothes into storage will free up extra space in your wardrobe for fun, bright summer dresses. Before you do, check out these expert tips for storing your winter staples properly (AKA without moth damage) from Sveta Michalovskaja, head of wardrobe at luxury clothing-storage and organisation service Vault Couture.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ~~~~~ Acid-free tissue
- ~~~~~ Breathable garment bags or boxes
- ~~~~~ Boot trees
- ~~~~~ High-quality hangers
- ~~~~~ Shelf dividers

style lab



COATS

Hang winter coats on durable, padded hangers (especially heavier coats) instead of folding, to help them keep their shape.



BOOTS

Suede and leather are prone to bleeding into each other. The solution? Separate your boots with acid-free tissue and insert boot trees to help absorb any moisture before storing in breathable boxes.



KNITWEAR

Unlike coats, knitwear is definitely better off folded for storage. Use acid-free paper (like the pros) when packing away all knitwear, including wool and cashmere. Then place them in a breathable box with the heaviest items at the bottom to prevent damaging the fibres.



BAGS

Scrub a small amount of acid-free tissue inside handbags to maintain their shape and, if possible, store them in their given dust bags to protect from moisture, sunlight and dye colour transfer. Use shelf dividers to ensure your bags stay upright when stored, as floppy handles can dent the fabric.



TIP 1

Remember to remove the dry cleaner's plastic bags

as soon as you get your items home. Yes, really. Not only do they prevent clothing from breathing properly, but these bags also trap fumes used in cleaning that can cause clothing to become discoloured.

TIP 2

Wash and dry your clothes before packing them away.

If an item has been worn, it may contain bacteria or oils from your body that will damage the fabric – eep! Moths are also attracted to cashmere and other natural fibres, especially if the item isn't clean, so give them a quick freshen-up first.