## HOME, LAMIS GARDEN

## Turn your attic into a closet

When the seasons change, so does your wardrobe. This can lead to an abundance of clothes cluttering your closet. If you are not quite ready to part with last season's styles but fear your closet may explode, consider using your attic as a storage space for your winter jackets and sweaters. Renovating your attic into a closet can be a do-it-yourself project, not only saving you money but making your life a little less cluttered.

Here are five simple steps to transform your attic into a comfortable closet fit to house your favourite winter garments:

1. Make sure you have enough light to work in and that you have something safe to walk and kneel on.

2. Before you add any insulation to your attic, you need to know how much insulation (R-value) is already there. This is simply done by measuring the thickness of your attic's existing insulation. Many older homes have between 3" and 6" of fibre glass blanket insulation. This is roughly equal to an R-value between R-10 and R-19. To achieve maximum energy efficiency, an R-Value of 50 is recommended for attics. If a cavity is not completely filled, use the appropriate width of PINK Fiberglas insulation for attics.

3. Once all cavities are completely filled, lay further layers of insulation batts in long runs perpendicular to wood structural members, using left-over pieces for shorter spaces. Start at the outer edges and work toward the centre.

4. Make sure the insulation doesn't block the ventilation space leading up from the eave vents. If needed, install a raft-R-mate attic rafter vent wherever there is an eave vent to ensure airflow. Proper air flow can help prolong the life of your roof shingles and avoid condensation problems.

5. Brighten your wardrobe by installing a light in your new closet. To insulate around electrical wiring simply split an insulation batt and fit it around the wire so that there's no gap. Make sure to use approved insulated electrical boxes for new lighting fixtures you may want to install in your attic or respect required clearances.

6. As soon as the insulation has been installed, finish the walls and ceiling with an approved interior finish, such as gypsum wallboard.

For step-by-step instructions on how to install attic insulation and help calculate how much insulation you will need based on the size of your attic, visit www.pinksavesenergy.ca.

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