



# USE YOUR CARD TO PAY EVERYDAY BILLS

## Smart Storage

Drawer-style containers are great for that empty space under the bed. Professional organizer Mia Marano, who runs the organizational company C'est Fini, in Los Angeles, makes the practical suggestion to store bed linens there. "It's logical; if you're changing the bed, and you have a rollaway storage space underneath the bed, you can just pull it out, take out what sheets you want, and then use that extra space in the linen closet for other things," she says.

When considering containers, think of their intended purpose.

- For storing photographs, get acid-free boxes that protect them from fading.
- Small items should be placed in small boxes, otherwise they'll just roll around in big containers and make searching for them a drag.
- Put a label on every container. Even clear boxes should be labeled, because reading is much easier than peering. For added ease, label all four sides of a container.

"To maximize storage space - think vertical," says Donna Smallin, author of several books on organizing, including *The One-Minute Organizer*. Look at how you might be able to use the back of a closet door, for example. Smallin suggests hanging shoe organizers for more than just shoes.

If you have high ceilings, chances are you have untapped space. Increase your closet space instantly by double-hanging your clothes. For those in the market for customized closets, Beverly Hills organizer Linda Koopersmith says, "Do your homework. Get trained designers, otherwise you may spend a lot of money and end up with something pretty that doesn't fit your stuff." Take the time to notice how you use your existing closets and note what kinds of items occupy the rack, floor, shelves, etc., and share this information with your designer. Designers should also look at the total number of items you want to store in the closet, and calculate the necessary space into the design.