

# leaders of the pack

Form meets function in these pretty and practical storage containers. *By Nori Sinclair*



**X BOX** Strong enough to hold a week's worth of wet towels, the X-Frame laundry hamper from Simple Human has a steel frame and convenient handles. \$100



**CASABLANCA COOL** Made of woven pandan leaves, hand-painted Temple boxes by Roost add Moroccan flare to the room. From \$25



**CAPTAIN CRUNCH** Snazzy patterns make cotton Crunch "cans" from Umbra a stylish way to store seasonal clothing or linens. Square or round, from \$20



**CLASS ACT** A sleek linen finish makes Cross linen storage boxes by President's Choice a trim hiding place for everything from letters to lingerie. From \$20

**CABIN FEVER** The rustic Cottage Cube from Pottery Barn is made of rattan stretched over a wooden frame—perfect to double as a bedside table. \$189



**BE SEATED** The Sitbox by Reissentel is a portable, foldable storage box that does double duty as a side table or extra seat. \$40

**PRINTS CHARMING** Multiple sizes and designs make the collapsible Storagebox by Reissentel the solution to any organizing challenge. From \$20



## THE DECLUTTER FACTOR

Great containers are only half the battle. Linda Chu of Vancouver's Out of Chaos offers these tips.

**DIVIDE AND CONQUER** Split your clothes into two seasons, winter and summer. Store any items (like heavy skiing sweaters) that you would never wear out of season.

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER** Put pants in one pile, T-shirts in another and so on. Subdivide the piles into casual and dressy items. Take it one step further and sort by colour or sleeve length—a great way to discover a glut of items. Do you really need a dozen black camisoles?

**TOUGH CALLS** If you're waffling on an item, put it in what Chu calls the "not-sure box." List what's in the box with the current date and the contact information of a charity and attach it to the box. Make a note in your calendar a year from now. If you haven't missed anything in the box

by then, you can donate it to charity without opening the box (and risking a trip down memory lane).

**TWO QUESTIONS** Question each item using two principles of purging: When was the last time you used it? Were you surprised to find it?

**AIR TIME** Clothes need to breathe, so don't store them in plastic boxes. Be sure to label the containers.

**CALL FOR HELP** If you feel overwhelmed by your closet, Chu recommends having someone support you in the process. Make a deal with a friend to work on your closets together, or call a professional organizer for help restoring order to your space.

[outofchaos.ca/organizersincanada.com](http://outofchaos.ca/organizersincanada.com)



**RISE UP** Create inches of storage space under the bed with mahogany bed lifts from Bed Bath & Beyond. Set of 4, \$33