How to make the most out of the space on your outdoor clothesline 6 simple tips

Load up on your laundry as this expert information will allow you to dry more

BY CIÉRA CREE PUBLISHED 27 JULY 2024 IN ADVICE

1. LEARN THE BEST AREA IN YOUR YARD TO PLACE YOUR CLOTHESLINE

You can't make the most out of the space on your clothesline without first knowing the best place to put it. Incorrectly placing your clothesline can result in damp, half-dry clothes that will smell bad or possibly require a run through your dryer, unless they are one of the items that should never be put in your dryer. This defeats the purpose of bringing them outside to air dry in the first place!

The sun will move throughout the day, meaning it won't always be perfectly beaming over your wet clothes. Therefore, it's important to take time to monitor where the sun hits best in your yard, and at what times of day your laundry is most likely to be able to fully dry outside.

'You need to take time to understand the position of your line relative to the sun's movement,' says James Joun, laundry expert and co-founder of Rinse. 'To maximize duration, starting at midday compared to late afternoon will give you more drying time and allow you to take advantage of a higher light density.'

2. HANG UP LARGER AND HEAVIER ITEMS FIRST

When you're faced with a giant pile of wet laundry to hang up and limited space to hang it, it can be difficult to know where to start. Heidi Solomon, professional organizer and interior decorator at POSH Boston, recommends tackling your bigger items first.

'It is recommended to hang the largest items first, such as sheets and towels,' says Heidi. Heidi followed this up by further adding, 'It is also important to balance the weight on the clothesline to prevent sagging.'

Regardless of what kind of line you're using, if your line sags, the clothing you placed on the line might move with the bend, or the line may become permanently warped (not the best for future use). For this reason, it's a must to ensure that the weight on any clothesline is evenly distributed, and not all concentrated in the middle.

Items such as towels tend to be heavier than clothing, and areas with a larger surface such as sheets may take longer to dry. By hanging these up first you're better able to gauge how much space you have left on your clothesline overall after they are hung up, and you're giving your larger items the longest possible time to dry off. It has also been said that line-drying your laundry can lead to better-smelling sheets!

3. LEAVE ADEQUATE SPACE BETWEEN YOUR CLOTHING ITEMS

You may think that leaving gaps between your items is far from the best way to make the most out of your clothesline space. However, if you don't leave enough of a separation between clothing items, you're actually risking your clothing taking longer to dry or gathering mildew.

'To prevent mildew growth, at least an inch should be left between each item hung on the line,' says Heidi. 'Your clothes will also dry faster, have fewer wrinkles and be less heavy on the line if you hang them in a single layer.'

James seconds Heidi's point. 'Your garments will dry outside and take on the benefits of air-drying laundry due to the heat of the sun and prevailing winds. Therefore, the garments need adequate space to take advantage of airflow.'

4. CONSIDER THE BEST AREA FOR YOUR CLOTHES PEGS TO GO

It may seem more efficient to hurriedly drape everything over your line, but taking a moment to consider the best way to hang up each item can be a real space saver, and kinder to your clothes.

'Be intentional with where you hang your clothes,' says James. 'Assume that the area where you pin your clothing has a good chance of experiencing warping, stretching or peg marks, so choose inconspicuous places.'

James suggests hanging pants upside down from their cuffs. This saves space and allows any potential peg dents to be barely visible at the bottom of your outfit. If your shirts are heavy enough to possibly stretch at the shoulders, hanging these upside down from the bottom could be a good move, too. The bottom of your shirt is likely going to be tucked in anyway.

5. SHAKE OR SQUEEZE EXCESS WATER OUT OF YOUR ITEMS BEFORE HANGING

Removing excess water from your garments won't only ease the amount of stress on your line, but it will also speed up drying time.

'Shaking out excess water before hanging up your items will reduce the weight of your garment which can prevent stretching and speed up drying time,' says James.

The sooner your items dry, the sooner they can be removed from your line and free up space to dry something else.

6. UNDERSTAND THE SHAPE AND STYLE OF THE LINE YOU ARE WORKING WITH

If you're working with a clothesline that hangs straight across, your clothes will have no choice but to dry in a fixed area – with the perk of being up far from the ground. If you are working with a rotating umbrella line, you can rotate the device to make sure all items get hit by the sun evenly if it comes into your yard from a certain spot. And if you're working with an outdoor drying rack, you can use portability to your advantage and move the wet laundry as the sun changes position.

5 signs you may have taken minimalism too far in your lifestyle professional organizers weigh in

Extreme minimalism might not be the right choice for you, and its aesthetic should never be more important than your happiness

BY CIÉRA CREE PUBLISHED 29 JULY 2024 IN ADVICE

1. YOU ARE EXPERIENCING POST-DECLUTTERING GRIEF

If you embarked on a decluttering journey seeking to better yourself and your life but instead ended up left with a hard to pinpoint feeling of negativity, something isn't right. It can be difficult to remove a lot of items from your home at once instead of decluttering as you go, so if you're feeling a sense of post-decluttering grief, it is normal - at least to a certain degree.

'While it's very common to have feelings of lightness or euphoria while purging possessions, grief can also be an unexpected by-product after items have been removed from ones life,' says Mindy Godding, Certified Professional Organizer, President of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals (NAPO), and Owner of Abundance Organized.

'Many people report feelings of loss or loneliness when confronting an empty space that was previously full. These feelings are perfectly normal if they're experienced temporarily, but if the feelings persist, that's a sign that the process of decluttering has been out of alignment.'

2. AN ACTIVE SENSE OF REGRET OR FRUSTRATION

The most common and easy to spot sign that a person may have decluttered too much in pursuit of a minimalist lifestyle is regret. Whether it's constant or comes on in waves, you miss certain items that you chose to let go and wish they were still around in your life.

'Occasionally when working on their own, people can almost purge in a frenzy, without careful deliberation or thought into long-term consequences,' explains Mindy. 'If someone is experiencing frustration or feeling manic in the decluttering process, they may have gotten rid of too much.' This is one of the clear signs it's time to stop decluttering.

Gretchen Moen, Chief Clutter Cutter at Cut The Clutter RVA in Richmond, Virginia, has directly experienced what it's like to regret decluttering something, still feeling that regret years later. 'When decluttering books at my house, I donated my child's Dr. Seuss books because we no longer read them regularly. Seven years later, my now-teenager still reminds me of my mistake in donating those cherished books.'

'When decluttering is successful it's life-changing, bringing with it appreciation, focus, calm and joy,' Gretchen continues. 'When I mistakenly donated those Dr. Seuss books, I learned the art of patience and the importance of considering the impact of decluttering items on not only myself, but on the people around me as well.'

3. YOU OVERLOOKED WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

You will ultimately end up feeling unfulfilled if you make your decluttering decisions based on anything other than your goals, wants and values. Up-heaving your life and discarding things that matter to you in the name of making your home look like a magazine page won't bring you the joy you're hoping for if you have to get rid of so much of what you love in the process.

'Marketing is very powerful and consumerism drives much of the messaging we receive in society,' says Heidi Solomon, Professional Organizer and Interior Decorator at POSH Boston. 'Minimalism isn't about living with nothing, it's about having what you need and use, and being mindful about what you consume and how you live.'

4. YOU'RE REPURCHASING WHAT YOU PURGED

Letting go of items you need and use is one of the top decluttering mistakes people make, and moreover it doesn't align with the true values of minimalism – keeping what you use, need, and love. Having less but struggling isn't the way, especially if you are struggling without the storage essentials minimalists avoid. This process is about creating abundance and making life better, not leaving yourself deprived and regretfully reaching for the credit card.

'For minimalism to work it is relative to what one person needs in their life,' says Heidi. 'If you find yourself constantly "missing" something or having to re-buy something you previously owned, those are signs you might have released too much.'

5. YOUR LIFE STILL DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S GIVING YOU WHAT YOU NEED

If you're experiencing prolonged negative feelings after decluttering and you are not enjoying the new, more minimalistic life you've created, it's time to begin reflecting. It's okay to feel this way, but in order to help yourself going forward you need to reflect on where and what went wrong, and if it was a good choice for you to pursue minimalism in the first place.

'Minimalism is a lifestyle, not a strategy,' says Mindy. 'Be clear about your goals. Most people who adopt this lifestyle have a very clear purpose and mission behind it. Getting clear on what you will gain as you release possessions – and being able to articulate that – will always help to anchor you in on-going decision making and long-term contentment.'

Heidi adds: 'It's easy to get on a roll and purge too much. I believe those that are most successful in living a minimalistic lifestyle have a lot of clarity about what they need, use and do. They are able to block out the consumerist and societal messages that contribute to maximalism and overbuying, instead focusing on what it is that actually matters to them.'

'It's difficult to know all of your needs going forward but the more clarity you have about who you are, what you want long term and how you wish to live, the better your choices will align with your lifestyle and needs,' says Heidi.