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 -- Brian Tracy

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Stacking in style

By Sangeetha G. Feb 09 2011

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It's the in thing. Arrange your clothes, accessories and footwear in a walk-in wardrobe in your bedroom. It keeps your room clutter-free

Term it a bit of luxury, but it essentially is an elaborate and stylish way of stacking things. Walk-in wardrobes are becoming a part of bigger bedrooms.

The concept involves a separate enclosed area, mostly inside the bedroom, where you can keep all your clothes, shoes and accessories in an organised way. You can walk into the wardrobe room, choose your clothes and dress up.

"The concept has come from the west. Unlike wardrobes or almirahs in the bedroom, a walk-in wardrobe is a separate room or an enclosed part of the room meant to hang and store clothes and accessories. The space will be large enough for a person to walk in," said Dameem Ansari, principal architect, Ansari Architects, Associates and Interior Designers.

A minimum length of 8 ft and width of 5 ft is required for a walk-in wardrobe. Three sides of the room will have shelves, hanging space, trouser rails, drawers, shoe racks and built-in jewellery boxes. Mirrors too are provided inside for dressing up. Proper lighting is essential for the room. In some cases, people go for focused or even automatic lighting.

In the west, only the room has a door. And the clothes and accessories are usually displayed in the open for the convenience of choosing. But Indian homes prefer all shelves and hanging spaces to be enclosed with separate doors mainly to keep out dust. The shelves are flexible and the arrangement of slides and pull-outs can be changed according to one's wish.

"The cost of a walk-in wardrobe starts from Rs 1,200 per sq ft. Of this, at least 40 per cent of the cost will come down if one chooses not to have separate doors for shelves," said Ansari.

He added that people who have had an exposure to houses in the west largely prefer walk-in wardrobes. Houses and apartments of 3,000 sq ft and above can afford to have wardrobe rooms.

"It helps keep the bedroom clean and clutter-free and clothes and accessories can be stocked elaborately. It also serves as an enclosed dressing room in the bedroom," he explained.

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