

Storage products to keep the great room organized

by Sheba Wheeler on January 11, 2010

The kitchen tends to be "the" place to hangout. That's great, as long as there is plenty of seating and storage to keep clutter at a minimum. I learned about these great products while researching for my article on how to design a multi-functional great room. Check 'em out!



Store everything from DVDs to unfinished art projects in new offerings available from ClosetMaid. The sleek, modern Selectives laminate system can be designed to fit any aesthetic and encourages restless DIYers to rearrange on a whim. The system hangs on ShelfTrack standard tracks and includes towers that can be switched around without any additional drilling. Try framing your flatscreen TV with the modular system.

"Utilize additional accessories like drawers and doors to conceal as much or as little as you dare," says Lisa Engel with ClosetMaid.



With storage lining the walls in the room pictured above, an activities table is free for homework and hobbies. The top half of a tall cabinet provides extra pantry space to store post-game snacks and victory reinforcements. For about \$200, extra storage space can be found outside the closet by giving each family member shelf space. Install them near the door to save time when you're trying to get out of the house. ClosetMaid's open stock wire shelving can be cut to size and the adjustable track system allows you to change shelf heights without more drilling.

Goodbye sofa bed

Twenty-five years ago, the multifunctional solution for hosting houseguests was the sleeper sofa. But the tremendous weight of a queen-size sleeper sofa plus its lack of versatility and comfort mean this piece has given way to more user-friendly and mature futon styles.



"These aren't the hard, wooden pallets your college kids had," says Bob Naboicheck, president and owner of Gold Bond Mattress in Connecticut. "Futons have come of age."

State-of-the-art cushioning through a pocketed coils spring system, high-end materials, and dozens of cover options helped the futon industry thrive while mattress sales have declined, Naboicheck says.



I'm especially fond of the oversized studio sleeper and the Burlington solid oak full-size frame, which includes drop-down tables and tray arms. Storage blend into the rail that holds the mattress up and the drawers fit underneath, offering space for sheets and pillows. The price is \$1,400 for either of these pieces.