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Chaos to Order

One of the surest ways to clean up your life is to start by cleaning up and organizing your living space. This New Year's tradition is all the more pressing in Hong Kong, where huge shopping habits and small apartments combine to entomb us in trash and clutter.

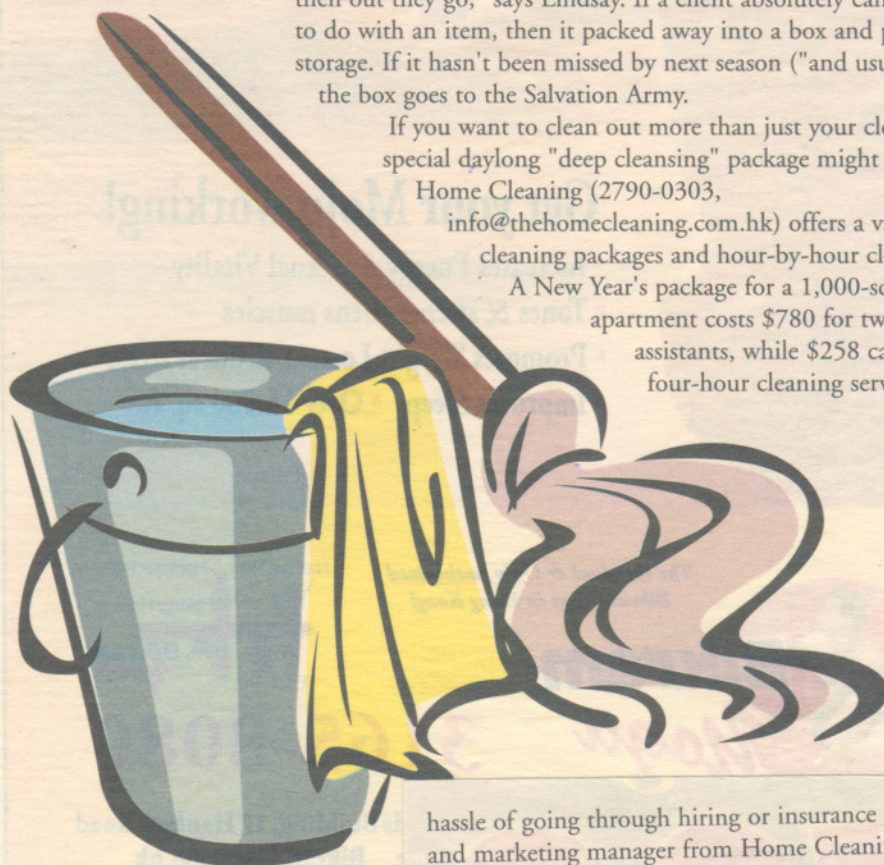
Eve Roth Lindsay, a fashion designer and founder of Savvy Style (2719-9674, eve@savvy-style.com), has been teaching Hong Kong people to organize their wardrobes since 1979. The cost is \$1,000 an hour with a two-hour minimum, but judging by feedback from her many clients, it's well worth it. "If you get it right," she promises, "not only will you save time in the mornings and look better and be more confident, you will also save money on those unnecessary and compulsive shopping sprees."

When working with a client, Lindsay begins by getting their colors done using the "Color Me Beautiful System." She takes the client's body shape, age and personal style into account and decides what makes that person look best in terms of wardrobe. Then wardrobe carnage begins. She empties the client's closet and divides it into four piles (1) love it, (2) memorable must keeps, (3) not sure and (4) definitely not. Pile four goes straight to the charity shop. Similarly anything that is ripped, stained, worn ("mouse pads destroy sleeves") go straight to the tailor or repair shop. Then every article from the "not sure" pile is tried on in front of a mirror. It's painful - but as with all resolutions - organizing your look is all about honesty. "If the clothes don't work, then out they go," says Lindsay. If a client absolutely can't decide what to do with an item, then it's packed away into a box and put into storage. If it hasn't been missed by next season ("and usually it hasn't") the box goes to the Salvation Army.

If you want to clean out more than just your closet, then a special daylong "deep cleansing" package might be in order.

Home Cleaning (2790-0303, info@thehomecleaning.com.hk) offers a variety of cleaning packages and hour-by-hour cleaning services.

A New Year's package for a 1,000-sq-ft or below apartment costs \$780 for two cleaning assistants, while \$258 can buy you a four-hour cleaning service without the



hassle of going through hiring or insurance agencies. Ms. Suen, sales and marketing manager from Home Cleaning, says "New Year is usually the most popular time where people hire the company for cleaning services. However, there are also regular clients who use the service up to once every two to three weeks. Depending on the type of packages you choose, our cleaning assistants can show up with their own box of cleansers."