

Topic: Honey-Do List

Me-Do
by Liz Gibbons

My husband was a lawyer, and when he began his career he spent long hours at the office. Even as he became confident in practicing law, he tended to be a workaholic. I learned honey-do was either me-do or hire someone to do repairs as he was not going to be much help in the house. He took care of the lawn and repainted our homes outside when that was needed. But I realized he thought anything inside the house was housework and my responsibility. He would do a few repairs, but it was often a long time until he got around to doing them.

When we lived in Colorado Springs from 1973-83 there was an annual home builders show where for a week you could tour new homes. At that time space-efficient custom designed closets were becoming popular. I kept studying those closets for ideas when we toured those new homes. Our master bedroom had a simple double closet that was not adequate to hold the clothes of both of us, so the overflow was hung in the closet in an adjoining bedroom that was used as a combined guest bedroom/home office. I wanted to reconfigure our closet, but my husband showed no interest.

He had to be out of town on business for a week, so I rebuilt the inside of our closet while he was away. I put in two clothes rods in half of it for short hanging garments, shoe racks at one end, an extra shelf high in the closet, and a few cubbyholes at the other end. I had it finished, the closet interior repainted, and clothes rehung by the time he arrived back home. I waited for his surprised reaction when he opened the closet door. It was priceless.

When we were getting ready to move from Colorado Springs my husband was doing some work in Phoenix where we thought we were going to move next. I repainted several of the rooms to get our home ready to sell. I got rid of clutter and had the house looking great. That paid off. The house sold within a week.

Finally, when we were in our mid-seventies my husband learned of a Vietnamese woman who was starting a business cleaning people's homes and was reasonably priced. He had her come clean our home. She did an excellent job, and he continued to have her come every three to four weeks to do a deep cleaning. That was heavenly. What a gift!

