

BUYERS' GUIDE FITTED WARDROBES

Thinking about getting bespoke, built-in storage installed in your bedroom or dressing area? Here's what you need to know

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The thought of a clutter-free bedroom with dedicated space to keep all your belongings will sound like music to the ears of many. Fitted wardrobes make the most of every inch of space, including alcoves, awkwardly angled walls, tall ceilings, and the area beneath the eaves if your master suite is in the loft. While some brands offer fixed door width sizes as part of modular set ups, many now create completely bespoke designs that are tailor made to meet your exact layout, storage needs, and are installed by dedicated in-house teams – all to ensure not a single opportunity is wasted.

Buying tips

First things first, consider how much long and short hanging, shelf, drawer, and shoe space you require – and don't forget about display shelves or drawers for ties, jewellery, and watches. Think practically about what you own, measure your belongings to work out how much room they need, and – if possible – measure your space to get an initial idea of your requirements. You can then bring this along to a meeting with a designer or have to hand during online chats with a particular brand. It's also smart to share photos or a rough sketch of your space when visiting a showroom, so the in-house team can get a good idea of what you currently have and what you will need.

Design decisions

Look for inspiration to find colours and finishes you like – whether that be real wood, high gloss, mirrored doors, glass display cabinets, or a mix. Most websites have galleries of real projects to look at and online configuration tools and showrooms will have plenty of samples for you to peruse. Also think about the different inserts you require and take a look at whether you want these to be in the same or different finishes as the outer doors. Practical built-in lighting can usually be included, too, but comes at an additional cost. Freestanding furniture – such as dressing tables or chests of drawers – is usually also available to complete the look, plus you can use fitted wardrobes to section off a part of your bedroom and create a dedicated dressing area.

Need to know

As they are bespoke, lead times may be a bit longer than with off-the-shelf solutions and it could take several weeks to have your wardrobes designed, delivered, and installed. After an initial consultation, a specialist will usually come round to your house to take exact measurements and discuss the design in more detail with you. Note that you will probably need to pay an initial upfront deposit and then make the final payment once installation is complete. Some brands will give you the option to fit the wardrobes yourself, but bear it mind that this may be a complicated build that requires more than one person.

Pricing

Cost depends on size, style, and configuration. Expect to pay around £1200 per m, including doors, fittings, and shelving, plus installation. **KBB**



↑ Spaceslide's Premium Mini fitted wardrobe collection, from £550 for two basic mirror doors and fittings, can be completely configured and ordered either online or in one of the brand's seven showrooms.



↑ Shown is the pink larch wardrobe with white mountain larch timber finish in Pink Dusk by Neville Johnson. Fitted furniture projects start at £3600.



↑ The Pure bedroom collection from John Lewis of Hungerford is a sleek and sophisticated handleless design. Prices start from £3000.



↑ Daval's Mayfair super matt Charcoal and Varenna grey oak bedroom furniture collections start at £7200. This project, where they were used to divide the bedroom and dressing area, cost £15,000.

← The Heritage Wardrobe Company's mirrored design was handpainted in Farrow & Ball's Mole's Breath. From £6800 for a six-door configuration.

"Before heading to the showroom, make sure you have taken a first measurement of your space. It doesn't have to be exact, but needs to include the ceiling height at both ends of the room, as well as in the middle."

Elinor,
editorial assistant



↑ Nørdikka wardrobes start from £1200 per m plus installation. A similar project to this Shaker-style walk-in design would cost around £12,180.



↑ Crosland Bespoke Joinery's bedroom wardrobe is shown with moulding detail and paintwork to match the property's period. From £15,000.