



David Crine, Owner

Out and About

Rocky Mountain Closets

By Jenny Brossard

Your closets are possibly one of the most used and least thought about spaces in your home. They're completely utilitarian by nature, but can bring feelings of peace and harmony if well organized. We all know how unpleasant it is to open a closet overflowing with too much stuff. We just wish we had a better system for organizing the space; perhaps more hanging rods, a few drawers, or a shoe organizer. Well, adding these features to your closets doesn't have to be a daunting task. Rocky Mountain Closets is able to take your disorganized closets and make them into fully functioning spaces, without a lot of hassle.

Rocky Mountain Closets of Littleton Colorado is owned and operated by David Crine. David opened his business in Littleton in 2004. Prior to that he owned and managed North Jersey Closets in Morristown, New Jersey for several years. David has over 25 years of experience in the "finishing trades" including; decorative painting, window treatments, and custom cabinetry. He says, "The transition from custom cabinetry to closets was a natural one."

David is a friendly, open man with a wealth of knowledge about closet systems. He employs several carpenters to help with the installation of the closet system. He is very involved in all aspects of the project from initial design to installation, so you can be sure that he will stay involved with your project all the way to completion. David's motto is "good design = form + function ÷ value." He believes that a good design starts with form (the right building materials), plus function (the right pieces in the optimum location), divided by value (the best pricing of the right materials).

Before beginning any home improvement project it is important to have a plan. The first thing you will want to think about when planning a closet upgrade is a budget. How much do you want to spend? Do you want to improve just one closet, say the master bedroom closet, or are you thinking about all the closets in the house? David says that the starting price for a typical reach-in closet, such as a bi-fold door closet in a child's room, is around \$800 for white melamine features.

Secondly, you should determine a timeframe for when you'd like to start the project. For changes made in an existing home, the typical turnaround time from start to installation finish is ten days using standard materials. Obviously, the lead time increases as custom features and upgraded materials are added. If you are remodeling a home or building a new one, the perfect time to involve Rocky Mountain Closets is before the framing is complete, that way David can use his design knowledge to help you optimize the layout of the space.

As with all projects involving design options, it is important that you have some ideas in mind before beginning. The Internet is a great place to start searching for ideas. Rocky Mountain Closet's Web site has a multitude of design information, ideas, and pictures of completed projects to help spur your design ideas. Their Web site address is: www.rockymountainclosets.com.

Once you're ready to move forward with your closet project, you can begin by calling Rocky Mountain Closets at 720-283-7600 to set up an appointment for David to come to your home and review your spaces. He will discuss your ideas with you and return to his shop to develop a design plan. This design plan will become the basis for developing the bid for the project, which he will present at your next meeting.

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Many people will consult with several different businesses before choosing a company to do their work. This is a smart thing to do. David recommends that when you are reviewing all your bids and plans, it is important to look at the quality of the materials being presented, as well as the overall price of the bid. Although Rocky Mountain Closets promises to not be underbid by the large franchise businesses, he notes that his work is as much about quality as it is about price. Rocky Mountain Closets uses only dovetailed joints on all the drawers they install. This is usually an upgrade for most manufacturers. Also, Rocky Mountain Closets uses 14" depth component material instead of the standard 12" used by the franchises. This gives you two more inches of depth of storage space per shelf.

David also recommends that you compare such things as the hardware itemized in your bids. Rocky Mountain Closets uses full-extension, self-closing slides on all of their drawers instead of lower quality, vinyl covered slides, in addition to drawer fronts with contoured edges as opposed to flat slab material.

Another advantage that Rocky Mountain Closets can offer you is their years of hands-on experience. David has personally designed and installed many different types of cabinet systems. Therefore, when he is designing a space he is fully aware of the specific components required to optimize the functionality of the space. He explains that this is not always the case for large franchise businesses that may employ designers without any hands-on experience.

When asked where the homeowner's money is best spent, David recommends that "on a limited budget, stay with white melamine materials in the smaller reach-in closets and spend a little more money on melamine wood finishes in the walk-in master bedroom closet." The most common building material for closet systems is a composite of pine core particle board laminated with melamine. Only 10% of most customers use solid wood or wood veneer materials, primarily because of cost.

When designing a closet system, the sky is the limit. Rocky Mountain Closets can build and install almost anything you can conceive. Typically, there are two types of systems; wall hung units and floor-based units. The floor based unit is usually reserved for heavier items such as bookcases or tall drawer units; whereas the wall hung units are commonly used for hanging clothes. A combination of both systems can be used in one closet if desired.

So, instead of closing your closet as quickly as you can because you're afraid something will fall out of it and hit you on the head each time you open it, check out Rocky Mountain Closets. Let David and his team help you organize your home; you'll be happier in the long run. Also, don't forget that having a well-accessorized and therefore, well-organized closet, can be a big selling feature when it comes time to sell your home.