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It was a 'Clean Sweep' Reality TV Show Invades Employee's Home



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRAZIER WATTS



Division 7's Frazier Watts says
he's a "packrat"
...and he just can't part with his
80 pairs of shoes

By JESSICA TYERMAN

(July 15, 2004) It took a team of about 30 people armed with cameras and the urge to organize to finally clean up West Hollywood Division 7 Assistant Manager Frazier Watts' act.

The Learning Channel's reality show "Clean Sweep to Get You Organized" took over Watts' home in Lakewood, Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, to revamp his bedroom and living room.

Watts expects the one-hour episode to air on TLC on a Saturday evening this month.

"It's great that there's a group like Clean Sweep that says, 'Let's attack America's packrats,'" says Watts, 41, who joined Metro in June 2003.

Even greater is the fact that they construct handmade items for the home and organize everything from bills to closets in only a day and a half – at no charge.

Watts, an admitted packrat, was taken off-guard when the unidentified group invaded his house Friday morning for inspection. His wife, Cynthia, had called the show, yet he had never heard of it.



About 30 members of the Clean Sweep team invaded and took over Watts' home for a day and a-half.

A cluttered beginning

Watts was soon reassured about the validity of the show when Organizer Peter Walsh, appeared exclaiming in his Australian accent, "We must get rid of the clutter!"

The team not only had the parents' shoe-infested bedroom to clean but a also toy-cluttered living room inhabited by the Watts' four children, Alexis, 2, Reyanna, 3, Darryon, 5, and Latoya, 21.

Cynthia was mainly concerned about her husband's abundance of shoes and the shoeboxes piled in their closet. Watts owns more shoes than his wife, about 80 pairs, and he admits, "I have a shoe fetish."

When the organizer proposed that Watts play 'horseshoe' to keep a pair of shoes for every ringer, Watts refused to risk losing any of his precious shoes. Watts eventually compromised with Walsh and got rid of a couple of pairs.

"Don't argue with them," Watts advises in hindsight. "Play the game and you will reap the benefits."



Cynthia Watts talks to Organizer Peter Walsh during the yard sale.

Yard sale!

With the team's direction, the couple sorted their personal possessions into 'keep,' 'throwaway,' and 'sell' piles. They had a yard sale at the house to rid of as many unnecessary belongings as possible. They donated all unsold items to charity.

"They died when they saw I had a carry-around A-track tape," Watts says. "That was golden."

The Clean Sweep team showered the couple with confetti and rewarded them with a \$100 dinner certificate for selling the A-track tape at the yard sale.

Watts says, "If it weren't for the show, I wouldn't have said, 'Why am I keeping this?'"

"Learning how to organize your closet is just like learning how to manage your credit," Watts says. "There are certain things you don't learn in school... unfortunately, these are the little things we don't think about."

The enhanced household

After staying at a hotel Friday night, the family returned for the yard sale Saturday morning. The team did not allow them in the house during the transformation process, which was completed Saturday evening.

Watts owns more than 80 pairs of shoes and resisted parting with any of them.



The living room and bedroom were completely reorganized, freshly painted, better lit and remodeled with new furniture such as a hand-built entertainment center and storage ottomans.

Carpenter Eric Stromer and his crew built the entertainment center and did woodwork on the dresser and cabinets. Designer Angelo Surmelis handmade pillows and curtains and selected furniture to match.

"The lights came on at the end," Watts says. "Once I saw how they organized my closet and saw how many pants and repeated colors of clothing I had, now it makes it easier to shop to replace."

"This really forced me to do more spring cleaning," Watts says, who is now organizing his garage. "We like what they've done to the home."