

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

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Once you have made the decision you no longer want or need an item it is a good idea to get it OUT of the house as quickly as possible because:

- you may change your mind
- someone else in the house may decide to hang on to it
- you may forget you meant to throw it out and cause more clutter

Follow these tips to eliminate the clutter as soon as you have it boxed and bagged and ready to go!

Get into the habit of regularly removing unwanted items from your house:

- Keep a basket or decorated box (even rubbish can look tidy!) by the front door to remind you to pass items to friends and relatives when they are about to leave
- Keep a box or bag in the boot of your car to fill up for your next trip past the charity shop



Disposal of the real rubbish

- Hire a skip
- Ask local council for collection service
- Hire a van or trailer and take to local tip or look in Yellow Pages for a local 'man with a van' who will do it all for you
- Add little by little to your dustbin, don't make it too heavy
- Check with your local authority what they will allow in your bin, whether they collect extra bags and if they do a bulky items collection



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Self-storage units

Often in town centres or on industrial estates (see Yellow Pages or Yell.com) These are warehouses specially designed to provide various shapes and sizes of storage. They are clean, accessible and user-friendly with a fixed rate of charges. They will also help you to work out how much space you need



www.safestore.co.uk

They have lockers small enough for a rucksack or large enough to take whole house contents. Storage units are a bit of a cheat as keeping your things in a locker is still hoarding, but they are useful for delayed house moves, storing furniture and carpets during renovations, keeping out-of-season scuba gear or skis etc. or storing children's things after they have 'moved out'

Self-storage is great as a temporary solution

- Ask about security, flights of stairs or lifts, how much space you get for your money, opening times, what access can you have to your locker, will they charge for any extras, is there a discount for longer periods of time?
- Put all your goods in large plastic stacking crates of the same size for easier handling and stacking
- Label the crates and keep a list of what is in each crate along with a diagram of its location in your locker and at home
- If you have precious items like antiquarian books, paintings, sculpture or musical instruments check the specifications of the warehouse thoroughly, before you make a deposit



Colourmove labels

Sell your unwanted goods on an internet site

- Take advice. On the Ebay site (www.ebay.co.uk) there are lots of help topics to steer you through the process
- Choose a secure site (with a padlock sign)

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Give Away

Sometimes it is easier to let go of possessions if you know they will be going to a good home. Here are just a few ways you can help other people to benefit from your big clear-out! Give your things to:

- relatives, friends and neighbours
- a children's ward – toys, books, videos etc
- a school, nursery or playgroup – toys, books, craft items, paper, sewing materials
- Social Services or the Salvation Army – household items, furniture, bedding, clothes, shoes. Check also Women's Refuges, Shelter, The Big Issue. Phone any charity you support and ask if they will take what you have
- charity shops (listed in phone book) all items except fur coats, damaged or broken items, dirty or damaged clothing and shoes
- shoe shops sometimes collect old shoes. Look for the collection bin outside the shop
- and look in the car park at supermarkets for books, clothes and shoes collection banks

Sell at auction rooms:



- Contact auctioneers and valuers (Yellow Pages or Yell.com) to ask about receiving days
- For large items they may do a valuation at your house
- Put a reserve price on items so that they will not be sold at a lower price than you would wish
- There will be a charge made for offering your goods at auction even if they are not sold

Ads in a local newspaper

- Group items together to save on column inches, state the price and your phone number
- First come first served. Cash only
- Have someone with you when buyers come round
- Do not show the buyer around your home, do not let them persuade you to part with any other items



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Sell through Dress Agencies

- Organised, efficient, friendly way of getting money back for shopping mistakes
- Clothes must be clean, undamaged, up to date, preferably 'good' labels
- Unsold, uncollected clothes are usually donated to charity after a couple of months



Sell at a car boot sale

- You need stamina, confidence and preferably a friend to help
- A sturdy table and a money belt
- Get there early, set up quickly and have your petty cash ready
- Beware of dealers flocking round your car as soon as you arrive. Tell them you will not sell until you are ready. But do get ready as soon as you can and talk to them, they are fast, have cash and will make up the bulk of your sales that morning
- Be prepared to haggle with your customers, the idea is to get rid of your things!
- Take refreshments, and loo paper.
- Have plastic bags to wrap goods in and to encourage customers to buy more
- Take plastic sheeting to cover your stall if it rains and large umbrellas for yourself
- Take stools or picnic chairs, it could be a long day



Have a garage or yard sale

- Good for children, they can sell their own junk!
- Saves having to load the car
- Put up local notices at least two weeks before the sale
- See notes for car boot sale
- You can add plants from your garden, home-made jam, cakes, biscuits and serve cups of tea and orange juice

Recycle

- Make use of weekly collections for plastics, glass and paper or take to local tip or recycling bins at the supermarket
- Use a shredder for all personal paperwork and recycle in paper bins
- Printer ink cartridges are collected for refilling
- Car batteries, car oil, paint, fridges, freezers, large electrical items must be disposed of carefully. Contact your local council for sites
- Chemists will take unused medication to be disposed of safely
- Take large amounts of scrap metal to a dealer
- Garden waste can be made into compost at home or at the tip
- Shoes collected for third world countries in bins outside shoe shops or in supermarket recycling centres
- Recycle spectacles. Visit www.danda.co.uk Support Vision Aid Overseas

Disposing of unwanted books

We English find it hard to let go of books, even cheap, tattered paperbacks are kept on valuable shelf space filling up our homes

- Will you read it again?
- If you let go of it now will you be able to buy another copy in future?
- How much of your life do you want to give to re-reading books?
- Any reference books are out of date within a few years
- Encyclopaedias and dictionaries are all available on the internet
- Today's children and tomorrow's students prefer new, up-to-date books not fusty old tomes. They use the internet for information for their studies
- It is possible to search for rare and out of print books on the internet, as more and more specialist bookshops advertise their catalogues worldwide
- It has never been easier or cheaper to buy books by mail order or over the internet

Knowing your beloved books will be read by others is a 'feel good' way of letting them go

Try some of these worthy causes in your area:

Local Community Book Fairs

Primary Schools – for children age 5-11, books for the library, books with illustrations, maps etc. for art projects. Phone first to check if appropriate
 Secondary Schools – for students age 11-18, reference books and novels as well as educational books. Drop in at the school reception

Useful Websites

www.recycle-more.co.uk/banklocator

www.freecycle.org Swap stuff for free. Look for group in your area

www.charityshops.org.uk

www.carbootcalendar.com

www.re-cycle.org Send your old bike to it Africa where it can be recycled!

www.childrensscrapstores.co.uk Brilliant for donating as well as shopping. All kinds of paper, card, tubes, decorative bits, plastic junk. Some things are donated by big businesses so surprises are always in store!

www.europeanrecycling.co.uk Supply stores with bins to collect shoes

www.chinasearch.co.uk Matching and replacement service. Sell them your odd teapots and plates

Your notes on where to recycle unwanted goods

I hope you have enjoyed finding out more about where to dump your clutter! Now is the time for ACTION! Start with something small like gathering up a bag of shoes for the shoe recycling centre or finding all your old specs to pass on to those in need

One step at a time, you will **make space for life**

Angie

If you are feeling overwhelmed and would like some help to organise your home, your business or your life, contact us at - office@spaceorganising.com or visit the website to find out how we can help over the phone or by email

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