

Brits hoarding habits revealed

Research from RatedPeople.com finds 75% of Brits are accumulating clutter in their homes

LONDON, JUNE 2013 – Britain is a country of collectors, research from RatedPeople.com has found, as some 73% of Brits admit to having a miscellaneous “junk” drawer in their home, with a further 35% admitting to needing a “junk” cupboard in which to hold their knick-knacks. In fact, our hoarding habit is so severe that more than half (52%) of us describe our homes as “cluttered.”

The research into the views of 1,000 homeowners by the online tradesmen recommendation company found that for nearly 1 in 4 people it is the study/home office that is most likely to attract unwanted mess. Indeed, outdated paperwork is clogging up almost half of all British homes (47%). Other clutter found in many homes includes: old mobile phone chargers (43%), old gadgets (39%) and old birthday cards (39%).

The top clutter being stockpiled in Britain’s houses:

Rank	Items	% of homes stockpiling these items
1	Unneeded paperwork	47%
2	Old mobile phone chargers	43%
3	Old gadgets	39%
4	Old birthday cards	39%
5	VHS tapes	36%
6	Old shoes	34%
7	Bags of old clothes	27%
8	Unwanted gifts that we feel guilty about throwing out	27%
9	Old currency (e.g. Greek drachma)	23%
10	Old kitchen utensils	23%

The research also found that 1 in 10 UK homeowners clear out their old junk less frequently than once a year, with 2 in every 50 households only clearing out unnecessary items when they move house.

However, Brits seem to be in denial about their stockpiling syndrome as 44% don’t believe they have enough storage in their home; and 38% commenting that they would like to use their space more effectively. Loft and garage conversions were cited frequently as the best way of making the most of space in their homes, with many respondents also saying that they would like more built-in cupboard space. In fact, RatedPeople.com has seen a 192% increase in the number of homeowners searching for space-enhancing loft conversions since 2011.

However, in spite of the need for space, homeowners ranked storage space as the least important of six criteria to consider when moving house, with bedrooms and a modern kitchen taking the top spots. Suggesting that what homeowners really want is more rooms to fill with clutter, rather than space to tidy everything away.

James Woodham from St James Design a member of RatedPeople.com had these top tips for people looking to make the most of the space in their home:

“Spring cleaning tends to remind us just how much stuff we have managed to accumulate. So now is a good time to turn our minds to better storage solutions to help reduce the amount of tidying and cleaning.

“From my experience at St James Design Interiors Ltd, three tips I would offer for people looking for storage solutions would be:

1. Use the space under the base units, island work tops and even breakfast benches in kitchens to create extra storage. Plinth drawers are increasingly popular for people who have small kitchens where storage space is at a premium.
2. In your bathroom, use the space between your partition walls. When installing bathrooms for our clients, we always suggest considering having tiled alcoves. They are neat solutions, maintaining minimal visual bathroom clutter. This provides you with storage without making your bathroom feel smaller.
3. Spend a weekend de-cluttering your loft space. This, alongside the garage, is a vital storage space for homeowners, but usually ends up becoming a pile of boxes and suitcases stuffed with sentimental or plain useless stuff that has outlived its usefulness. Free standing, or adaptable shelving, which can be added to, or separated, maximises the height at which you can store stuff you are not ready to part with, offers flexible storage solutions and makes good efficient use of all corners. Best of all good storage saves you time when you’re looking for something.”

Tariq Dag Khan at RatedPeople.com, commented: “Increasingly, we’re seeing homeowners come to RatedPeople.com to search for tradesmen that can help with space saving solutions, such as loft conversions, extensions and garage renovations – and this research makes it clear to see why this is.

“Making the most of the space in your home doesn’t have to mean expensive conversions or extensions. Something simple, such as converting the cupboard under your stairs or adding in some extra shelving, can make a big difference to how the bric-a-brac in your home is organised. Although, there is no substitute for a good clear out to help you appreciate how much space you really have.

“De-cluttering your home could also provide inspiration for other home improvement projects; you’ll be amazed at the possibilities of what you can do with the extra space in your home, once you’re able to see it.”

NOTES TO EDITOR

About RatedPeople.com

RatedPeople.com is the UK’s largest trade recommendation service that connects homeowners with over 30,000 quality, local tradesmen nationwide.

Homeowners who are in need of a tradesman can post jobs for free on RatedPeople.com and receive quotes from up to three interested tradesmen.



Only homeowners who have found their tradesman through RatedPeople.com can leave ratings, so they are always based on genuine experiences from previous customers. These ratings, based on quality, value and reliability, allow other homeowners to confidently hire a tradesman they can trust.

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