

**Media Outlet:** *The Daily Telegraph*

**Date:** 19.06.13

**URL:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/10129122/Old-birthday-cards-useless-gadgets-Britons-cant-part-with-their-junk.html>

**DUU:** 1,903,191

# The Telegraph

## Old birthday cards, useless gadgets - Britons can't part with their junk

Britain is a country of hoarders, unable to let go of unneeded paperwork, old VHS tapes, defunct currency and outdated gadgets, research has found.



Surrounded by memories: a hoarder finds happiness Photo: Getty Images

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Almost three quarters (73%) of people admit to having a drawer full of miscellaneous junk at home, with more than half (52%) describing their homes as "cluttered".

The hardest thing to throw out, it seems, is paperwork we no longer have a use for, with 47% of homes inexplicably stockpiling it.

Old mobile phone chargers have also proved hard to part with, as 43% say they have failed to bin them.

Other items might be held on to for more sentimental reasons, as more than a third (39%) like to keep their old birthday cards.

Old clothes and shoes that will never again be worn are failing to make it to the charity shop meanwhile, instead taking up space in already packed homes.

The study or home office is the most likely site of this unwanted mess, according to the survey of 1,000 homeowners by RatedPeople.com.

Nearly one in four people hoard their junk in these rooms, although 38% insist they would like to use their space more effectively.

James Woodham from St James Design said: "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."

Tariq Dag Khan from RatedPeople.com added: "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."

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∴ The top clutter being stockpiled in Britain's houses, with the percentage 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%