

Media Outlet: *The Times*

Date: 19.06.13

Circulation: 394,982

# THE TIMES

## You never know, it might come in useful one day

Kaya Burgess

Do you have cupboards in your home so full of junk that you dare not open them? Are there kitchen drawers overflowing with obsolete gadgets and wardrobes bursting with clothes that went out of fashion with the Berlin Wall? If so, you are not alone.

Britons are natural hoarders, according to a survey revealing that more than half describe their homes as "cluttered". Almost three quarters of those surveyed admitted to having a "junk drawer" and more than a third needed a whole cupboard to hide their mess.

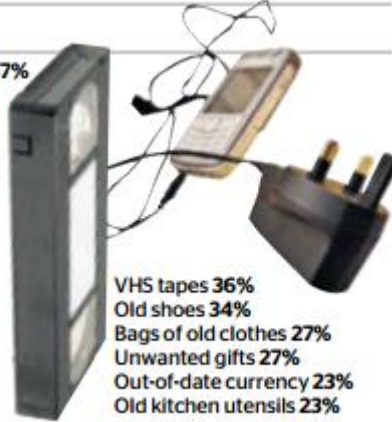
A poll of 1,000 homeowners by RatedPeople.com found that paper-

work such as old bank statements and receipts are the most common form of clutter, cited by almost half of all respondents. Some 43 per cent of people still hold on to useless mobile phone chargers, while 29 per cent said that they had out-of-date gadgets. More than a third have hung on to old birthday cards. Most no longer have the technology to play them but VHS tapes still linger in 36 per cent of homes; 34 per cent have stacks of old shoes.

More than a fifth of people still have a stockpile of old foreign currency, including the out-of-date Greek drachma. A tenth clear their junk less than once a year, and 4 per cent only throw away old items when they move out.

### What we hoard

Unneeded paperwork **47%**  
Old mobile phone chargers **43%**  
Obsolete gadgets **39%**  
Old birthday cards **39%**



VHS tapes **36%**  
Old shoes **34%**  
Bags of old clothes **27%**  
Unwanted gifts **27%**  
Out-of-date currency **23%**  
Old kitchen utensils **23%**