

# Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Helping you to  
clear clutter and  
feel -

Better!"

Issue 26 - April 2011  
'Organised Kitchen'

# Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

Welcome to the April edition of **Chaotic Times!**

This month I'm going to be looking at how to best organise your kitchen. It may involve an element of decluttering, but also ways to save space and more importantly, time!

If you feel that space is at a premium in your kitchen then a serious declutter is a good place to start.

My suggestion would be to go through your food cupboards checking best before dates, discarding anything which is past its best. So often we can buy ingredients for a special recipe, but then end up not using the whole pack. Whatever it is, it languishes at the back of a cupboard taking up valuable space.



Take time to apply this principle to your fridge as well and you'll find that you have a lot more available space. Are you one of those people who has to store certain packets of food on the worktop? Decluttering those kitchen cupboards will free up worktop space, making your kitchen feel so much more spacious and giving you valuable space to cook and prepare meals.

One other way that worktops can become crowded is an accumulation of ornaments and gadgets. Ultimately this kind of thing is very much a case of personal taste; nonetheless it's important to remember that clear worktops are much easier to keep clean! You may even find items that don't really belong in the kitchen! Time to put them away where they belong and make some more space.

So, you've thrown away some out of date packets of food and gained some cupboard space. Excellent!

As soon as you have a little space to spare then it's possible to start rethinking how you actually store things.



Very few of us have the kitchen of our dreams! We all have to work with what we've got. Just as with other rooms in the house it really is a case of making the space work for you as best you can.

Try to apply some storage logic. In other words, don't store items randomly. For instance have your kettle on the worktop near the sink. In a nearby cupboard, store your coffee, tea, sugar and mugs. That way when you make drinks, everything is to hand. Equally, store all your tinned food in one place.

I tend to think that smaller packets of food are better in the higher eye level cupboards as they are easier to find that way.

Look out for handy space saving gadgets that will make the most of limited spaces. The best place for such items is Lakeland. If you check their online catalogue most items have customer testimonials for you to check before purchase.

I recently bought '[Stac-a-can](#)' (see right); this simple device enables cans of food to be stacked safely. Single layer cans in a cupboard are wasting lots of vertical space! £3.29 for a set of four.



'I also have a version of the '[Handy Shelf](#)' which enables more efficient use of cupboard space, particularly when storing smaller items. Available in two sizes and currently on a buy one get one half price, offer. £7.99 for either the slimline or oblong size. Can even be stacked for use in taller cupboards.



Most kitchens tend to be the hub of family life and there is a tendency for paperwork etc to accumulate on any available flat surface. One way to minimise this is to have a noticeboard for things like school notices, appointment cards, invitations etc. Remember that out of sight can be out of mind.

A plain cork board can be cheaply sourced, but may feel a bit too formal for your kitchen. Check out '[Notice my name](#)' - Jo Conway makes the most beautiful padded fabric memo boards in a variety of gorgeous fabrics. You can even have your own bespoke design. I thought prices were very reasonable and they will look great in a homely kitchen.

Well, I hope this has given you some food for thought regarding organising and tidying your kitchen. Let me know how you get on!

*Best regards,  
Judith*



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