

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Creating SPACE -
Restoring ORDER"

ISSUE 46 - DECEMBER 2012

IKEA Shopping tips



Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

I've resisted the urge for a Christmas theme this month, and instead have decided to focus on IKEA, home of some really great storage solutions.

What has IKEA got in common with Marmite? Well, it's a shop you either love, or hate, I've concluded.

Regular readers and clients will be aware that I frequently recommend IKEA products for specific storage situations. My opinion is that most of their stuff is reasonably priced, looks good and has been thoughtfully designed to be functional.

So, what's not to like about IKEA? Some people (including my husband), object to the fact that one's route around the shop is planned by the store and it is practically impossible to deviate from their chosen path! This *could* also be viewed as a benefit, as it does encourage you to look at things you might not have considered, and this might be how you find just what you need.



Don't get caught out by price!

'[IKEA Family](#)' is a loyalty card with a variety of benefits. Sign up for free, either on line or in store.

Members qualify for special offers on some items, which is great. But if you don't know about this you might think you've got a good deal - until you get to the till!

Prices displayed on 'IKEA Family' special offers display the *discounted* price in large print.

Yes, you've guessed it, the *full* price is in relatively small print and looks quite insignificant.

So, if you don't want to be an IKEA Family member, watch out for this! Otherwise you might end up paying more than you'd bargained for.



Some more IKEA Family benefits:

- ◆ Special offers/discounts, some quite substantial
- ◆ Free coffee (Mon-Fri) plus discounts in restaurant
- ◆ 5% off assembly service
- ◆ Free product insurance covers home journey and self-assembly
- ◆ Events, workshops, etc

The shopping process:

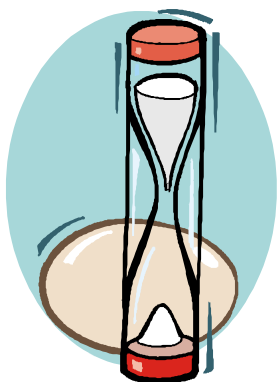
If you're intending to visit your local store, I would suggest you check the IKEA website for opening hours, as there can be variations. Most importantly, to my knowledge, none of the shops is open before 10am Monday to Saturday and 11am on Sunday.

If you arrive a wee bit early though, you can claim a free coffee or tea in the restaurant which is open from about 9.30am. This is not related to the IKEA Family offer and applies to anyone.



Some furniture is available from the self-pick area on the ground floor. You need to carefully check measurements of your chosen items to make sure that, (1) you can fit them in your vehicle, and (2), you can manage them on your own. It's a good idea to take a friend!

Other items will be picked for you and sent to the collection area. You will be given paperwork to take to the till and having paid, you can then visit the collection area.

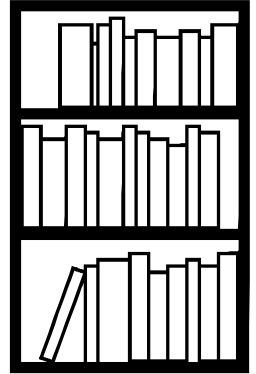


Be aware, this can be a time consuming process. When I recently visited a local store on a weekday, the shop was not busy, but there were long queues at the tills. Frustrating to say the least. I'm told this can also be the case at the collection points.

So, either factor in plenty of time, or make your purchases on the internet. Use your visit to the store to check on items you might buy. It's always good to be able to see and touch things, match colours and so on, before committing yourself.

How I can help

If you want to make some changes to furniture, or storage media at [home](#) or in your [office](#) - it's best to consider all possible options. Sometimes, if you're desperately short of space, it's easy to go for what looks like the obvious solution. An extra set of shelves for instance.



When I take a look at your room, I will suggest how to make the most of the space. Existing pieces will be used to best advantage in conjunction with new functional items to suit your needs.

This can be done in person, or via my [Phone Consultation service](#) when you would need to e-mail me photos of the area concerned.

If you intend to invest in new furniture, it makes sense to ensure it is the best possible option for you

Well, that's all for 2012. I hope you all have a wonderful festive season and look forward to a new year of decluttering with you in 2013!

*Best regards,
Judith*

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