

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Helping you to
clear clutter and
feel -

Better!"

Issue - October 2011

'Maximise your storage space'

Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

Firstly, thanks for all the positive feedback regarding the Flexi Rack featured in last month's newsletter. It seems this has been the answer to many a maiden's (and a mum's) prayer!

This month I'm asking you to turn your attention to your furniture. Latest research by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) shows that on average, a new 3-bed house is 8% smaller than the recommended minimum. This puts more pressure on the occupants to be tidier and more minimalist. Otherwise they will end up feeling hemmed in and cramped.



My clients often blame small rooms for their clutter issues. However, there are ways to create space, even in a small room.

All that's required is some thought about what is actually taking up valuable floor space. Of course this is nearly always furniture. Have you noticed how most furniture showrooms are spacious barn-like buildings bearing little resemblance to a normal room?

When you see a piece of furniture you like, chances are you won't realise how big it is. You fall in love with the design but when it's delivered, your room becomes instantly cramped.

My advice is to always take measurements of the available space in your room, and of course measure the furniture you might be about to buy!

Have you simply got too much furniture? It's easy to acquire pieces over the years without really considering what purpose they serve. If you're short of space - do you really need that extra chair or coffee table?

If you can afford to do so, it's worth replacing items which have a large 'footprint' with something smaller. Smaller doesn't have to mean less useful.



For instance, you may have a bookshelf which is quite deep and takes up quite a bit of space. Its construction is probably solid and heavy but it's not very tall and only has two shelves which are fixed.

The more practical alternative would be a taller bookshelf with shelves which can be adjusted to suit the height of your books. Whilst being substantial, it's not unnecessarily heavy. Most importantly it is shallower, taking up less floor space. Not surprisingly this version will hold more books!

So often bookshelves are unnecessarily deep, inviting you to store books in two rows to make use of the space. Not very practical!

Of course the bookshelf is just one example. Try to think about your other furniture in the same way.

I can recommend IKEA for well designed shelf units, which brings me neatly to the subject of organised office space. It can be a challenge, particularly for those of you, who like me, work from home.



Above is an example of what can be achieved. This room is quite tiny, but now functions effectively as an office for two people - thanks to [IKEA's versatile Expedit range](#).

Note how vertical height is used to best advantage. This enables the occupants to work from two relatively small desks.

A perfect demonstration of appropriate storage space being key to minimising clutter and maximising space.

Don't forget - neatly stored paperwork reduces stress and gives you a calmer working day!

Imagine applying this principle to your garage.

DIY and hobby items can be most effectively stored by using the vertical space which is so often wasted. A simple racking system will make it so much easier to find things.



I can't write this newsletter on the subject of careful choice of furniture without reminding you about the bespoke option.

Take a look at [Sylph Furniture](#)'s website to see what can be achieved. Furniture to fit your available space - perfect!

Well, food for thought - don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like more personalised storage advice.

*Best regards,
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