

# Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Helping you to  
clear clutter and  
feel -

Better!"

Issue 43 - September 2012  
'Storage Boxes'

# Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

This month's newsletter has been inspired by similar experiences with various clients and is designed to get you thinking about how good storage systems work.

## **Why storage boxes aren't the answer - when clutter is the question**

So, what do you do when you find yourself drowning in clutter? Prior to contacting Organised Chaos many of my clients concluded they should purchase plastic storage boxes. The kind that can be bought more or less anywhere these days.

So, picture the scene. Imagine a living room or bedroom where the floor is covered in a variety of heaps of 'things'. More often than not, the furniture is covered in similar piles of stuff. The room looks untidy, but more than that, the owner is feeling stressed as a result.

Such quantities of muddled belongings make it difficult to function in so many ways. It might become necessary to move stuff around just to get into bed, or eat at the dining table, for instance. It's unlikely that this person has many visitors and may have to spend lots of time trying to find important items, especially paperwork.

## **Frustration and a degree of depression are not uncommon and these feelings are what prompts some action**

So, a decision is made to go shopping - for storage boxes. There's quite a lot of clutter, so it's necessary to buy quite a lot of boxes.

By now, there is a feeling of urgency, panic even. So there's no time to think about which are the best boxes, or if there might be a better solution. Cheap boxes are deemed to be best, because lots will be needed to contain all that stuff.



The boxes are immediately put into use - as the cluttered person is now desperate to see some improvement and wants to feel better.

Piles of 'things' are scooped up by the armful and put into boxes. Gradually the floor becomes visible and the furniture is uncovered. The room is looking much better.

### **So, what's wrong with that, then?**

Well, it might be OK for a while, but it's a bit like putting a sticking plaster over an infected wound! The image below might be an extreme version, but notice how this room is literally full of stuff, and yet a lot of things are actually in boxes!



After a while, the lids on the cheap boxes crack under the weight of boxes stacked on top. It is STILL impossible to find anything, because the boxes are merely *containing* the clutter - rather than addressing the issue.

### **So, what's the answer then, if storage boxes don't work?**

I'm all in favour of storage boxes - but only AFTER the decluttering process - not as a substitute! I also advocate the use of good quality boxes such as Really Useful Boxes, made in the UK. In fact I'm able to supply these direct to my clients.



After lots of hard work, here's how the 'room of many boxes' finished up!

The owners were glad to reclaim a spare bedroom and took great delight in furnishing it.

### **So, what's the moral of the storage box story?**

Buy and use storage boxes wisely. Declutter first, be prepared to part with things you no longer have a need for. Make sure you've organised everything to your liking before considering storage solutions. Then go shopping - if necessary. The outcome will make the effort really worthwhile.

If you'd like to know how I can help, please do get in touch.

*Best regards,  
Judith*

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