



THE *House* MINISTRY

Tips to Maximise Storage in a Small Space

We can't always live a clutter free life but if there is just a bit too much detritus in yours then here's a few handy tips to help put a bit of order into the chaos of life.

1. **Frequency of use and accessibility.** In each room, decide which items you will use most frequently (daily, weekly, monthly or only a few times a year). Have a good declutter of anything you haven't used in the last 2 years. You will be left with an idea of the storage space you need, and the frequency of use and the importance of its location (you do not want to be climbing on stools to reach down items in use several times a week).
2. **Floor to ceiling built in storage in alcoves.** Made to measure floor to ceiling cupboards or bookshelves not only will give your room a grander look, they will utilise every inch of the space in an alcove. They are ideal for painting or wallpapering behind and will be a great long term investment.
3. **Drawers instead of cupboards.** Particularly useful in kitchens and utility rooms, where bending down to reach heavy or awkwardly shaped items at the back of the shelf is replaced by visibility of the whole drawer.
4. **Ottoman beds.** An indispensable space saver in small bedrooms. A divan base on hydraulic hinges effortlessly lifts up to reveal an area the size of the bed itself. Ideal for spare bedding, summer clothes storage during the winter months etc.
5. **Bench/banquette seats with opening lids.** Build them into window seats, boot rooms or conservatories. They are an ideal place to store cushions for outdoor furniture, sports kit, children's toys in a playroom or less frequently used items.
6. **Decorative items double up as functional.** Creative Storage solutions don't have to be boring, and can suit your aesthetic. The original function doesn't have to stay with that item for life! Antique hat boxes get a new lease of life long after the hat has been finished with. Decorative pots for kitchen utensils, pretty gift boxes for home office stationery, wicker hamper baskets for magazines etc.

When it comes to storage solutions we take inspiration from the boat and yacht builders, who have mastered the art in tiny spaces. The majority of their solutions are highly customised and creative with all nooks and crannies taken into account, but the principle is entirely transferable to a home.

Contact Julia on 01242 572108 or email info@thehouseministry.co.uk to find out more about our **Design Consultations**.