



De-cluttering your home

Most guides tell you to remove 'clutter' - but what is it? We are so used to our own homes that it can be hard to identify what should go and what can stay. This handy list will help you spot what must be banished from sight!

- 1. Shoes** - we all know a woman can never have too many! But shoes left in the hallway or looking untidy on shoe racks are best stored in the closet.
- 2. Coats** - the same goes for coats in the hallway. This can instantly shrink the space which is not good as it's the first thing buyers see. Hang coats in the wardrobe.
- 3. Paperwork, newspapers and magazines** - piling these up on a bookcase or table does not count as tidying. Ensure anything containing personal details is shredded or destroyed and don't forget to recycle.
- 4. Sentimental items** - graduation photos, sports trophies and the like are valuable reminders of our most precious memories but potential buyers need to picture making their own memories at home there.
- 5. Dishes and Laundry** - while it's admirable that you have tidied, don't leave the clean dishes out or leave shirts hanging on radiators to dry. Put them away.
- 6. Furniture** - it's a common myth that showcasing how much furniture your rooms can hold is appealing. Any unnecessary furniture should be stored elsewhere. Space is good!
- 7. Soft furnishings** - while throws and pillows can make the place look nicer, don't go overboard. Rugs cut the amount of visible floor space so choose your finishing touches carefully as too many details can be distracting. Less is always more.
- 8. Unwanted items** - although tidying is essential to help sell your home, it's also a great opportunity to shift the things you don't want/need to take with you - be brutally honest. Donate your items to charity, sell them online or at your local car boot sale or simply recycle them.