

# PRESS RELEASE

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**With the credit crunch taking hold and talk of a recession, more people are looking to turn their clutter into cash.**

**So great is the demand that a company specialising in clutter clearing (The Clutter Clearing Consultancy, [www.clutterclearing.net](http://www.clutterclearing.net)) are giving people advice on 11 ways that they can get cash from their clutter.**

1. Sell the unwanted clutter by:
  - a. having a garage/front garden sale. (We help people who have a **1-2-1 home consultation** or attend a **group workshop** – we lend them a banner to promote their garage/front garden sale – FREE of charge.
  - b. selling on an on-line auction site
  - c. going to a car boot sale (don't buy more than you sell though!)
  - d. Taking it to a high street **cash conversion** shop
2. First edition books, children's annuals (Beano, Blue Peter) antique toys (Corgi and Dinky toys, or toys from your parents or grandparents era), old family recipe books, copper saucepans, vinyl records still in their original packaging with the paper envelope inside, the Natwest piggy banks from the 1980's – all are worth auctioning through specialist dealers.
3. Take items that you think may be of value to an auction house (online auction sites are useful to help you decide whether you think something is of value).
4. Go through your paperwork clutter – the type of clutter that most people seem to have and everyone hates! – enabling you to reclaim hundreds of pounds from unfair **bank, credit card, PPI charges, endowments, council tax rebanding, old bank accounts** that you'd forgotten you had, and other charges.
5. Clearing the paperwork clutter may also enable you to find paperwork that enables you to claim for **delayed flights**, review your **energy bills**, get your papers together to do some **financial planning**.
6. Rent out your spare space e.g. garage/shed to someone who needs/wants it. If you live in a house it may be that someone in a nearby flat would like to use your garage to store their car, bikes etc (make sure you tell your insurance company you are storing it and make clear what the person can and can't store in there). Do a leaflet drop or put an advert in the local free newspaper.
7. Rent out the space you've made in your spare room to a student, foreign student over the summer holidays, someone who works during the week in your area - particularly useful in the current climate – visit the **Government Rent a Room** scheme website for more information.
8. With any cash that you make from selling unwanted clutter you could insulate your loft or get cavity wall insulation to help reduce your heating bills.
9. Unwanted clutter could be turned into gifts for Christmas (as long as you don't give it back to the person who gave it to you!).
10. Have you got a skill that you no longer use? E.g. sewing, baking, gardening, building, interior design, curtain making, knitting, hairdressing, beauty skills etc. These could be considered skill clutter if we're not using them. Could you trade them with other people in return for services from them that you would find useful, or use them to earn a bit of extra cash as a part time job?
11. Turn it into cash for someone else – give it to charity so they can sell it on. Charity shops are seeing an increase in demand during the credit crunch as people go for the cheaper second hand

market rather than buying new. They can only sell them if they have them, and they're reliant on the donations of people who are clearing their clutter. So go on – give some of that unwanted clutter away!

### Facts and figures:

- 86% of people have wanted to clear their clutter for more than a year
- 72% say they feel stuck with all the clutter / it's holding them back
- 58% of people say they have reached a point where they feel they need some help from someone who understands the problem they have with their clutter
- 58% of people have had their clutter out of control for 5 or more years
- 43% of people say they would use the word 'overwhelmed' to describe how they felt about their clutter
- 29% of them are fed up of living like this
- 18% of people's clutter contains mainly paperwork

- **60% of our top tip subscribers** tell us that they have signed up because they need to know how to make more space, make money or organise their part of the home better.
- **More divorced couples are having to live together** due to the credit crunch because they can't sell the marital home and move on. For many they say this is holding them back from moving on.
- **52% of us** said last year that when we were looking for a new home it needed to have at least one spare bedroom for our spare 'stuff' – not for kids, grannies, pets, offices etc - and we were willing to pay more for it, according to the Yorkshire Bank's quarterly Housebuyers Survey of 2007. Now it's a luxury we can't afford and we're having to make the most of what we've got.
- **50% of us** are expecting to have a lean Christmas in 2008 due to the credit crunch. With household bills and the cost of living on the increase, we simply won't have much left over to buy gifts.
- **50% of us** are worried we may lose our homes if we can't afford to pay our mortgages.
- **50% of us are trying** to sell our home to get equity out or save money.
- **Many estate agents have only 1 house sale a week** due to the lack of credit at affordable prices and a falling market. This is according to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in September 2008.
- **1 in 5 of us** are worried about losing our jobs - hardly surprising as companies crash and demand slows down.
- **30% of us** are losing sleep because of worry about losing our home, losing our job or not being able to afford Christmas.

### Notes to editors:

1. Clare Baker set up and runs The Clutter Clearing Consultancy – [www.clutterclearing.net](http://www.clutterclearing.net).
2. Clare Baker can be contacted on 0777 5897955, 01295 275030, 0203 3030 152 or 01604 269 129.
3. Clare Baker is available for interviews, discussions, phone-ins etc on clutter clearing issues.
4. Clare Baker has contributed to articles on the issue of clutter for many well known magazines, newspapers and radio stations.
5. The Clutter Clearing Consultancy has a weekly FREE top tip that people can sign up for on-line.

**Please call one of the following numbers to book an interview with Clare.**

**0777 5897955**

**01295 275030**

**0203 3030 152**

**01604 269 129**