

Goodbye chaos – hello space-saving miracle!

Create extra storage space in a flash with these practical tips

Everyone can create extra storage space. Even you! These five tips will help you succeed – guaranteed!

Tip 1: Look for extra storage space

No matter how big or small your house is, there is never enough storage space! However, if you don't have endless square metres of space available, you might need some space-saving solutions. Storage space in apartments or small flats is often a scarce commodity.

Important: Use every centimetre wisely! There is often a gap, in-between space or slot between the wardrobe and the wall or ceiling. Using built-in furniture or drawers that fit perfectly makes maximum use of the space and they can even be fitted in small in-between spaces.

Useful tips: Corners are tricky. But if you know how to use them properly, they can be the ideal spot to create extra storage space by using corner drawers, cabinets with swivel shelves or other [great storage space ideas](#). It's often difficult to position closets in corners because the wall often prevents the doors from fully opening. The solution: [pocket doors](#)! They look like normal doors; but when opened the doors slide into the gap next to the wardrobe and are completely hidden. So, they don't bump into anything. Great for the end of a wall unit or above the work surface in the kitchen. In small kitchens or kitchenettes, even the gaps between the kitchen cupboards and the floor or even between the wall units and the ceiling can be converted to create storage by fitting drawers or cabinets to close up the gaps. The extra storage space at the top is perfect for things that you don't use very often.

Zebrabox tip: Which pieces of furniture do you actually need? Do you use the sofa or are you really an arm chair person? Do you need the big dining table or would a folding table do? If you don't have much space, you've got to consider your habits more carefully and think about things seasonally: store winter things in the basement during summer and vice versa. These types of strategies help to make optimum use of the space available.

Tip 2: Use “wardrobe” storage

The wardrobe, an endless expanse. But at some point, even the big wardrobe will be completely stuffed full...

Important: Not everything in your wardrobe will be things that you still wear. Rule of thumb: take anything that you haven't worn in the last year and half to a [second-hand shop](#) or clothes collection point or give it to someone you know. Tip: have a clear out, ideally twice a year, if you're swapping over summer and winter things. And another rule of thumb is: a new item can only “move in”, once an old item has been thrown out, given away or donated!

Useful tips: Use thin wire clothes hangers instead of bulky wooden hangers to save space. Depending on what you tend to wear, additional shelves or another clothes rail can help to create extra storage space in your wardrobe – whether it's suits and dresses that need to be hung up or casual clothing that can be folded in a pile. Even small rooms can be quickly and cheaply divided by using sliding doors or putting a curtain over a whole wall. This space can then be fitted with shelves, clothes rails and ready-made containers to create storage space that is ideally suited to your needs.

Zebrabox tip: If there is not enough space in the cupboard, then things that are only used occasionally or seasonally, such as winter coats and summer shoes, need to “move out”. These things can be put to one side in drawers under your bed or in a [storage unit](#). Practical tip: you can also buy furniture made from cardboard, such as that made by [Strange Design](#) or [Stooly](#). It is quick to build and dismantle, exceptionally light and can also be decorated each season with great wallpaper.

Tip 3: Discover bed storage

Beds are not just there to be slept in. Thanks to a wide variety of options, you can also create storage space under it. You can even use the space to hide bulky bags of clothes.

Important: Water beds or box-spring beds might be comfortable, but in small flats they are not very practical because every opportunity to create storage space is worth its weight in gold. Whether you've got a sofa bed with integrated bed frame, a bed with drawers or a normal bed. The main thing is that there is enough space under the bed for drawers or to store bags of clothes (make them really flat by vacuum packing them). Even a suitcase can be used to create storage space.

Useful tips: It's not just underneath the bed where you can create extra storage. If the bed stands out a bit from the wall, then you can also create storage in that gap with a thin piece of furniture. Is it on rollers? Even better, then you can use the space all the way to the floor.

Zebrabox tip: You don't need a high ceiling when you're sleeping! A loft bed is a great way to create extra storage space, depending on the height of the ceiling. This way the floor space under the bed can also be used. Still need to create a bit more space? Could creating an extra level be the way to go? If the ceiling height allows and the bed is fully attached to the wall and on supports, then the additional space can be used as a walk-in wardrobe. But make sure this is done by a professional tradesperson!

Tip 4: Tidy your work area

Many of us prefer to hide our desk or work area in a dark corner and just use it as a handy dumping ground for notes, business cards, doctor's appointment letters etc. That doesn't happen if it's placed in the middle and clearly visible!

Important: Use folders to file bills, documents, receipts and tax documents straightaway. Every time!

Use a shoe box to store personal documents, such as postcards and love letters. That doesn't necessarily have to take up space on your desk, it will be fine in a chest-of-drawers or

sideboard. Make space for stationery in the drawers and put the most frequently used items in the top drawer. Then, put everything that you use less often in the drawers below.

Zebrabox tip: Put paperwork that you no longer need in the paper recycling bin or shred it.

Tip 5: Creating storage space under the stairs

You don't have to live under the stairs, like Harry Potter – but you can use the space under the stairs as an extra storage space. Square-shaped [drawers](#) and boxes are ideal because they can be arranged and create even more unimagined storage options. Equally, this extra under the stairs storage space is also an easy way to divide up the room – for example by using [cardboard furniture units](#).

Important: The materials and units that you use must be stable and not collapse under a load when filled.

Useful tips: The extra stair storage can also be a practical feature, for example as the way up to a loft bed.

Zebrabox tip: Get inspiration and instructions on how to create and build your own storage space under the stairs – or how to get someone else to build it for you – on [Pinterest](#) or ask a good carpenter.