

## Subtracting to Make Space



There are two ways to gain more Space in your home.

1. Add – build a new room, or build or buy more efficient storage

OR

2. Subtract – evaluate what's taking up space and eliminate something

In my experience, people usually do not evaluate their available space until forced to do so. It may be a new baby arriving and needing a room of their own, or moving house, or simply reaching that point where the things that have come into the home to make life more comfortable are actually making it downright uncomfortable.

Whatever the reason, if your home needs more space, option two – subtracting – is a good first line of attack. I don't personally see the logic in paying for new storage or building an extra room to hold more stuff before making as much space as possible by elimination of the unnecessary.

Whether on a small scale (just a few containers) or large (an entire room), there are ways to make subtractions. Where there's a will, there's a way. Try these tough love tactics on for size...

- Toss most of the “just in case” things you're keeping. Really? It's tough, but when was the last time you actually needed any of that stuff?
- Give away a big pile of plastic containers from your kitchen. Most won't have corresponding lids and again, when was the last time you needed every one of them?
- If you have a large collection of standby gifts, make a commitment to give them – don't wait for an occasion. And then stop stockpiling. Next time you want to buy a gift, be sure you know the person and occasion you'll give it. And make a note in your diary to do that.
- Got hobby supplies you haven't touched in years? You know what to do. Hobbies go in and out of fashion, and your tastes, available time and interests change too. Let it go.
- Get rid of the storage solutions. Well, some of them anyway. I've seen piles of empty baskets and boxes that take up so much room they actually create more clutter than they contain.

What are your tough love tactics for subtracting to make space at your place?

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