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A venture into space

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BEST use of the space in our homes with slick storage solutions not only makes rooms look tidier, it also makes good financial sense.

Swedish furniture giant **Ikea** recently found that 77% of us have a big problem with clutter, which contributes to wasting a whole room. More research by junk clearance company Any Junk? estimates that on average householders waste about £32,000 worth of space.

The company's founder Jason Mohr says: "Given the current state of the housing market there's never been a better time to make the most of the space you have.

"Even for those people still looking to sell and move, nothing is more likely to send out the wrong signal to a prospective buyer than an untidy, cluttered home."

Restore domestic harmony by improving storage and tacking those rebel possessions. TV property specialist Roger

Southam says looking afresh at rooms is the first step.

He says: "Don't automatically use rooms the way they've always been used. Think of them as blank spaces and work out which room types actually suit your family's needs.

"If necessary turn a little-used dining room into a study or playroom, or perhaps a spare room into

an office.

"Then get rid of the clutter by using smart storage and making better use of space."



■ STORAGE SPACE:

An Elfa décor dressing room, which can be finished in either solid birch or walnut. A free design service is available if the size is wrong for your space, £1,999. It's available at STORE (www.aplaceforeverything.co.uk).