

Circular Guide to CLEAR OUTS



Any type of renovation whether doing the work yourself or getting a builder requires a room or in some cases a full house clear out. The same advice can be taken on board when moving house.

Here are some steps that will assist you to do a clear out in an efficient and environmentally friendly way:

Step 1: Plan

Plan and know your limits. At the start of the job when motivation is running high, it can be tempting to bite off more than you can chew and end up overwhelmed. Try to take it one room at a time so that if you run out of steam, you can still navigate your way through the house without being stressed out by your own belongings.

If you're tackling the whole house, it may be a good idea to plan out the job in a calendar, e.g. Saturday: bedroom, Sunday: cupboard under the stairs, etc.

Step 2: Equip yourself

Gather Necessary Supplies Collect the essential supplies you will need for the clearance, including:

- Boxes and bags for sorting
- Packing materials such as bubble wrap and packing paper
- Tape and markers for labelling
- Cleaning supplies
- Tools for disassembling furniture e.g. screwdriver, spanners

Step 3: Sort

Sort and categorise Items. Begin by going room by room, sorting items into categories:

Keep: Items you want to keep.

You can usually establish what to keep by asking yourself 3 simple questions.

1. Does it hold sentimental value? e.g. photographs etc.
2. Is the item unique? i.e. having lots of items similar will build clutter
3. Does the item add value to your life?

If the answer is yes to any of these then it should not cause clutter in your home.

Re Use: If renovating, can objects such as a door or window be re-used for a shed or garage. Some older properties could have natural stone that could be re-used.

Donate: Items in good condition that can benefit others. This can be to friends and family or to a charity.

Sell: identify valuable items you could sell e.g. kitchen cabinets & counters, internal & external doors, fireplaces

Recycle: Items like paper, cardboard, glass, and plastics.

You could utilise your kerbside collection by placing suitable smaller materials clean dry and loose in your dry recyclable bin. Larger recyclable items can be brought to your local civic amenity site.

Dispose: Items that are no longer usable and need proper disposal.

Step 4: List

Make a list of the items you intend to keep, sell, donate, or recycle. You can even pop a note on the items so everyone is aware of the item's final existence. This will help you keep track of your belongings and make it easier to declutter.

Step 5: Donate and sell

Once you've identified items for donation or sale, arrange for pick-up or drop-off with friends/family or local charities or on-line platforms.

Step 6: Clear the space

Now that you've sorted items to keep, donate, or sell, it's time to clear the space. Start with larger items and furniture and work your way down to smaller items and debris.

Step 7: Dispose of unwanted items

Responsibly dispose of items designated for disposal. In relation to time and fuel and segregation of waste materials, taking items to your local civic amenity site is a cost-effective solution. Other options are to hire a skip from an authorised skip provider, use an authorised bulky waste collector or bring to a local authorised waste disposal facility.

Step 8: Final cleaning

Perform a thorough cleaning of the entire house, including floors, walls, windows, and appliances. This is especially important if you plan to sell or rent the property. Check out our Greener Guide to Cleaning <https://mywaste.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Greener-Cleaning-Guide.pdf>



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Remember why we need to be Circular:

The circular economy aims to keep materials and products in-use in the economy for as long as possible. By adopting this sustainable and circular system, we can minimise our waste which will help prevent the unnecessary extraction of raw materials and help the environment.

Now that we all know what it is, how can we play our part?.....it's really easy and we are probably doing a lot already.