THE AUTISTIC GUIDE
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How to use small space efficiently

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HOW TO USE SMALL SPACE EFFICIENTLY

If you are moving into student accommodation or a student house, chances are your room will be much smaller than what you are used to. You will probably spend quite a bit of time in your room doing assignments so it is important that it is comfortable and not cluttered. You may think that living in rented accommodation makes it harder since you can't put any permanent storage in place, but there are plenty of ways to make the most of your space without making any permanent changes.

1. USING MIRRORS

A well-placed mirror can make a room look bigger than it actually is. A full-length mirror is also useful to see your outfits so it has many uses!

2. PUT LESS USED ITEMS IN HARDER TO REACH PLACES.

Most wardrobes will have a high shelf that's hard to reach, or your bed may have drawers underneath it for extra storage. Put your less used items, such as your suitcase, or your spare bed sheets in these places. This frees up room for your more frequently used items to be more readily accessible.

3. BUY STORAGE FURNITURE

Many shops sell items specifically made to give you more storage, and for saving space. It is easy to find examples of these online. Buying large lidded boxes that fit under a bed can be an ideal solution to limited storage space. Here are some examples from IKEA that won't break the bank. IKEA is a good place to buy this type of furniture as it has a lot of variety in terms of prices and sizes.

https://www.ikea.com/ie/en/cat/trolleys-fu005/

https://www.ikea.com/ie/en/cat/storage-boxes-baskets-10550/

https://www.ikea.com/ie/en/p/enudden-hanger-for-door-white-60251665/

https://www.ikea.com/ie/en/cat/hanging-clothes-organisers-10459/

4. ADD LOTS OF LIGHT

Student accommodation usually has bad lighting, which can make it seem pretty dark and gloomy. Adding lights will make your space happier and brighter. Plus, it's really hard to study in the dark. Buy string lights, floor lamps, desk lamps—the sky is (literally) the limit.

5. LIMIT YOUR DECORATIONS

The more decorations you have, the more cluttered your room is going to feel. Wall hangings (like tapestries, pictures, and paintings) aren't bad, as long as your entire room isn't covered with them. So even though you've been pinning dozens of dorm room DIYs on Pinterest, you may want to reconsider. Limiting items on your desk, floor, and wall will make your space feel more open—and make it easier to clean. Bonus!

6. USE LIGHT COLOURS

Because who wants their room to stay dull and dark? When you pick out your bedding and accessories, go for lighter colours to keep an airy feel. They'll also help with making your room seem bigger. Avoid dark colours like black, brown, and maroon unless you're using them to compliment another colour (and even then, use them sparingly).

7. MAKE YOUR BED AS SOON AS YOU STEP OUT OF IT

There's something unsettling about an unmade bed, and it can have a big impact on how tidy, organised and productive your room looks and feels. This is something many people agree with, including Elena Gaor, who's currently living in Dorset Point accommodation while studying English Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. Like many students, Elena found her room slipping into untidiness during her first few weeks of independent living – and the bed was a large part of this. Here, Elena explains why making your bed is the first step to an organised living space: "It might sound obvious, but the first step to a clean, organised room is to make your bed as soon as you step out of it. This will help get you in the right mindset and is a welcoming sight upon returning from a long day of lectures."

8. USE DRAWER DIVIDERS FOR ORGANISED STORAGE

Drawers are an essential storage solution in bedrooms of any size, so it pays to keep them tidy and well organised. Drawers dividers can help your drawers from getting cluttered and can make it easy for you to find what you're looking for.