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HOW TO EMBRACE A MORE MINIMALIST WAY OF LIVING IN YOUR KITCHEN

often allow ourselves a free card to let stuff we don't actually need accumulate (we're talking pretty plates, cooking utensils and gimmicky appliances).

However, once you take time to assess which items you actually use on a day to day basis, you will find that many of them serve very little purpose whatsoever - if any at all.

Kitchen items to declutter include those appliances that promised to make your life easier and have failed to deliver on that promise. You should only retain those items that make sense, provide a "helping hand" and actually help you with your day to day chores - not those "must have" items that you imagine you are "supposed" to have.

Here we take a more detailed look at the items you can afford to get rid of, so that you can finally achieve the minimalist, modern kitchen you've been craving.

serve very little purpose whatsoever. Here's what the experts say you should clear from your space

Do you love the look of a minimalist kitchen, but think the reality is unattainable? It is fair to say that being the heart of the home, our kitchens witness a great deal of day-to-day activity. As primarily functional spaces, it's easy to believe that everything

THERE are certain things in your kitchen that you can get rid

of if you are trying to embrace a more minimalist way of living.

Many of the items that clutter our kitchen work surfaces actually

There are two sides to minimalism. First, there's the beautiful simplicity of a pared-back style. Secondly, there's the philosophy that encapsulates the notion of living well with less.

stored there is absolutely necessary, but the fact is, this is probably

Of all the rooms in the home, the kitchen is the place we most





Minimalism isn't simply a case of shutting everything you don't want to see behind closed doors and adopting an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" mentality.

That said, it's a good idea to start decluttering the surfaces that are always visible, such as the kitchen worktops, if you want a pared-back space.

One of the easiest items to part with is a knife block, which tends to be big and take up valuable worktop space. Not only are knife blocks big and bulky, but they're also hard to clean and

Instead, store your knives in a drawer or utilise vertical space

by installing a magnetic knife strip on your kitchen wall to hang your knives.

There was probably a time when you thought a bread maker was a good investment. No matter how adamant you were that you'd use it, I can almost guarantee you've plugged it in less than five times. For busy modern families, store-bought bread just makes the most practical sense.

In a minimalist kitchen you should let go of unnecessary appliances, such as those that take up valuable space on your

kitchen work surfaces. Bread machines are big, bulky appliances that take up a great

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deal of space. Unless you're making multiple loaves of bread a day, you can easily make bread with just a mixing bowl and some elbow grease. If you the urge to bake your own bread, the oven does just as good a job.

A kitchen cottage might have linen towels hung on hooks and strung across cabinet handles, but a mismatch of coloured kitchen towels certainly won't be conducive to a minimalist look.

A cluster of items with different patterns, colours and shapes increases the visual business of a space, so create uniformity and simplicity as much as possible with your visible accessories and textiles.

Ask yourself how often you actually use your dish towels and get rid of any that don't gel with your pared-back design, keeping just one neutral cloth and a spare. You could even consider storing it out of sight for a more streamlined space.

If you want your kitchen to be a fresh, clean slate, avoid displaying your cookbooks on your shelves. With the convenience of the Internet, most cookbooks are just collecting dust.

Make copies of your favourite recipes and downsize your collection to a spiral notebook, or look to go all digital and create an online cookbook on your phone or tablet instead. If you do decide to keep them, you can display them on the bookshelf in your living room.

Many of us buy kitchen appliances simply because we think they're essential to a modern kitchen. While it might be hard to imagine making breakfast without a toaster, or cooking the family meal without a microwave to defrost your meat, both these gadgets are holding you back from a truly minimalist design.

Toasters and free-standing microwaves are not as important as you've been led to believe, either. You can just as easily toast bread under the grill, or heat food in the oven, it just takes a little longer.

When deciding what appliance to keep, choose the one that is the smallest, or most compact, or one that's multi-functional. 'Even if that means it requires a little more effort in the kitchen, the additional space you will gain is worth it.'

If you can't bear to part with your toaster, or microwave, an "appliance garage" is the best way to disguise these bulky items,

so that they don't detract from your kitchen's clean, minimalist aesthetic.

These clever built-in contraptions are designed to hide unsightly items on your countertop behind a door or screen, helping to keep your surfaces super organised.

You might think that the extra kitchenware hidden behind the closed doors of your cabinets doesn't matter, but a surplus of crockery and cookware will almost certainly start spilling over to your surfaces. What's more, it's good practice to stay on top of the amount of stuff you own, even if it is out of sight most of the time.

Organising a kitchen can be an ongoing process but, depending on your kitchen size, you can get the job done in a few minutes. Go through all the cabinets and drawers and throw away anything broken. Donate things you don't use any more to a charity shop and free up as much space as possible.

Decluttering and minimalism actually go hand-in-hand. At their core, both are about recognising the value of the things we love and use and getting rid of those we don't.

For the objects in our homes to not distract us from the life lived within the space, it's important to question each and every one of

Unnecessary items, details, and decorations serve no purpose whatsoever and, as William Morris so accurately put it, you should "have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful".

Besides ridding our kitchens of cluttered surfaces, there is a good deal more to the principle of minimalism in interior design. It's all about appreciating the simplicity of an object's unembellished form with no frills. In the kitchen, the main feature this corresponds to that is invariably in our line of sight is our cabinets.

For the most pared-back look possible, white slab cabinets are the obvious choice. Traditional styles with recessed panels, such as shaker cabinets, should be avoided. If you still want the visual appeal of a Shaker but with a more modern reinvention, try slim Shaker style cabinets for a more minimalistic take.



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ROANN WINS 3 NEW WORKTOP PROJECTS TOTALLING ALMOST HALF A MILLION POUNDS

WAKEFIELD-based granite and quartz worktop supplier, Roann Ltd, has been appointed by Hertfordshire-based contractor, Midgard to supply kitchen worktops across three projects totalling almost half a million pounds.

Established in 1990, Roann Ltd specialises in manufacturing, supplying and installing high-quality granite and quartz worktops within the house building, property development and construction sectors.

With more than 30 years' experience, Roann Ltd is dedicated to procuring stone worktops that help developers significantly reduce costs on their projects by selling a wide selection of worktops direct to them.

Roann Ltd purpose-built factory in Wakefield houses more than £2m worth of state-of-the-art stone manufacturing machines and equipment, enabling the company to fabricate more than 15,000 worktops a year.

The three projects, located in Brent Cross Town, London and Preston Road, Brighton, are utilising 20mm Silestone Blanco Norte and 20mm Caesarstone Frozen Terra products throughout all kitchen areas, provided by Roann Ltd as the exclusive worktop supplier.

The Preston Road project in Brighton consists of 229 apartments spread across three tower blocks.

The two Brent Cross projects are part of the Brent Cross Town mega-development, which will see 800 new homes for sale and to rent, alongside new retail and dining spaces.

These appointments come shortly after the news that Roann Ltd had invested in a sustainability initiative and is replacing all single use plastic, with recyclable cardboard, having reported a recordbreaking year in 2022.

'We're delighted to have been appointed by Midgard to work across these three projects!' says director of special projects at Roann Ltd, Richard Silverwood.

'We've been working with Midgard for many years now, so we're thrilled that this relationship continues to grow,' adds Mr Silverwood.

Want to find out more? Visit www.roann.co.uk



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KING SLIDE'S SIMLEAD DRAWER SYSTEMS

Design your perfect kitchen with King Slide's SIMLEAD metal and wooden drawer systems - an optimal blend of functionality and aesthetics.

AT THE heart of the home, the kitchen has become a multifunctional and social space, transcending from a mere culinary room to a shared space where family members also work, chat and do homework. Consequently, designing a harmonious and uninterrupted kitchen workflow and a well-planned storage space is crucial.

With this in mind, King Slide has introduced a series of SIMLEAD metal and wooden drawer systems, which perfectly combine functionality and aesthetics.

This all-mechanical push open and soft close drawer design provides users with the ultimate convenience and efficiency throughout the home. Accessing your drawers has never been made so easy!

Why choose SIMLEAD Drawer Systems?

Home storage planning has always been a major part of every design strategy. Devising a fluid flow throughout the house is just as important as maximising storage spaces within the limited space. SIMLEAD drawer systems help you do just that.

With 13mm ultra-slim metal drawer sides, no space is wasted, whilst maintaining beautiful cabinet designs. Two loading capacities – 40kg and 70kg – plus a synchronised gliding motion design ensure that the drawers operate smoothly and silently, even if lots of heavy cookware are stowed.

The built-in adjustments mean that any irregular drawer gaps resulting from installation inaccuracies can be easily rectified, helping you achieve flawless drawer alignment.

From 97mm to 249mm, you can choose a drawer height most suited to your storage space.

King Slide's assorted side panel colours, patterns and designs include four standard colours, Streakline, Carbon and many other Motif designs. There is an abundance of choices for a variety of interior design styles. From traditional to modern and luxury styles, you can find a panel design that complements and enhances your chosen style.

Three revolutionary designs with safety considerations

The SIMLEAD drawer system ensures the safety of your home spaces. Rest assured that there will be no more injuries caused by popped-out drawers for junior and senior persons at home.

Lightly touch open your drawer when your hands are busy. The gentle and smooth opening motion ensures that the drawer stops softly if it comes into contact with an object. To continue extending the drawer, simply touch it again to re-activate the push open mechanism. Better still, the drawer closes elegantly with no "bounce back".

Injuries among young children attributed to tipped-over cabinets have long been a major area of concern for parents.

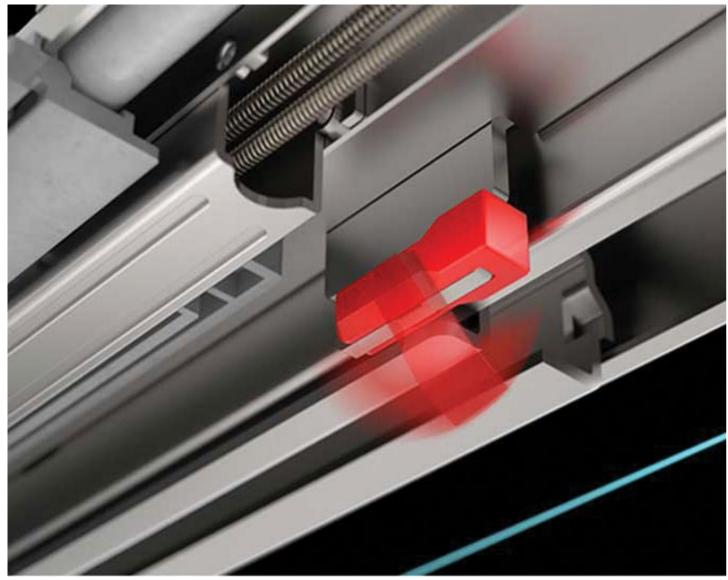


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Similarly, accidental drawer openings commonly observed during the transportation of furniture are problematic.

King Slide's SIMLEAD drawer system with VSD effectively secures the drawers in the cabinet and prevents injuries, or damage to the drawers. This vibration detection design is a safety feature exclusive to King Slide.

An additional safety feature – disable the push open function

whilst retaining the soft close feature with a simple flip of a switch. You may wish to switch it off if you have young children at home, or when you have guests around the house. Likewise, it is an exceptionally useful design, ensuring the safety of the personnel involved with moving furniture.

Want to find out more? Visit www.kingside.co.uk





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PAPERSTONE - A NEW SURFACE MATERIAL

LEADING supplier of solid surface materials and complementary products, CDUK has launched sustainable material PaperStone® to the UK and Irish markets.

PaperStone® is a new generation sustainable material, made from recycled paper with natural resin.

The surface has a unique, textured effect creating an organic warmth, which can be specified in a range of natural hues and tones. Selected colours are produced from 100 per cent FSC recycled paper and cardboard.

This environmentally friendly product is ideal for architects and designers looking for a sustainable solution.

PaperStone* offers specifiers the opportunity to reconnect people with the natural world through design. With its tactile warmth and hint of texture, this surface material is beautifully unique.

Its composition delivers high performance across a range of applications. These include kitchen work surfaces and cabinet doors.

'We are thrilled to be the sole supplier of PaperStone* to the UK and Irish markets. At CDUK we have seen a real shift in the market with customers becoming more environmentally conscious. PaperStone* offers our clients a sustainable solution to their design needs,' says divisional managing director of CDUK, Andy Nobel.

CDUK is a supplier of surface materials and complementary products to the specification market in the UK and Ireland, including kitchen designers, fabricators and contractors.

Having built a strong reputation as the exclusive distributor of Corian* Solid Surface in the UK and Ireland, CDUK now offers an extended range of services, as well as products from a number of leading brands.

CDUK is a family owned business with over 40 years' experience. The company supports its customers through a journey, as their design partner, from sourcing the best products and materials to helping them unlock their full potential through expert advice and technical knowledge.

The CDUK team of industry experts also provides technical





advice, sampling and bespoke training courses for designers, manufacturers and fabricators.

'At CDUK we are constantly looking at ways to innovate and expand our offer and grow with our customers.

'The launch of PaperStone® marks a significant stage in our development and we are excited to help our customers make the most of this unique product,' adds Andy.

The surface material is manufactured using FSC certified recycled paper and natural petroleum free phenolic resin with natural pigments and has obtained important environmental certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and qualifies for bio-building use and assignment of LEED* credits.

PaperStone® is impact resistant and hard wearing, resisting temperatures up to 180 deg, without showing any superficial changes, whilst being water and stain resistant and easy to clean.

The versatile nature of the material makes it a cost-efficient solution for a range of interior and exterior applications and can be cut and engraved depending on customers' needs.

PaperStone* colours are warm and rich, reflecting Nature - often with a soft and subtle variegated finish, with a total of 11 colours across two ranges. The Solid Colour Series includes five deep, rich organic colours. Some of these colours "evolve" over time, mellowing and growing with their environment to become more intense and warmer.

Solid Colour Series

Cabernet, Chocolate, Gunmetal, Sienna and Slate-P.

The Designer Series has more of a geological than organic finish, with six lighter colours.

Designer Series

Azure, Charcoal, Graphite, Honey, Pewter and Sand.

'The range will include a range of thicknesses selected based on our understanding of our key markets and knowledge of latest colour, texture and design trends,' concludes Andy.

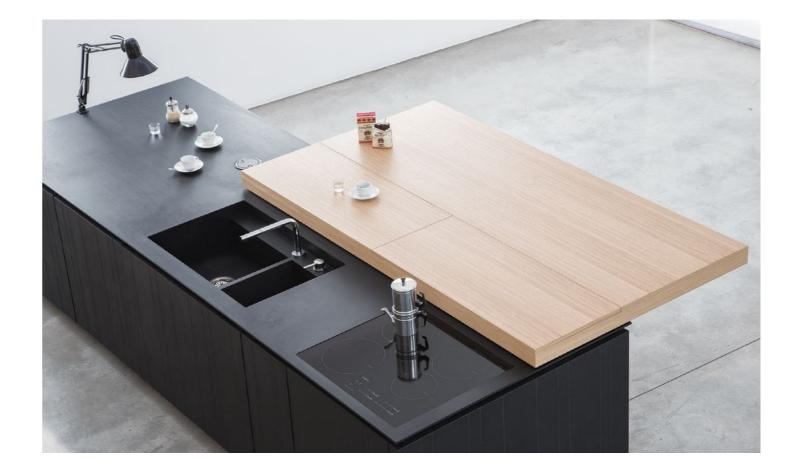
All colours are available in three thicknesses: 6mm, 13mm and 19mm and in two sheet sizes 1,525mm x 3,658mm and 760mm x 3,658mm. Sheet weights vary, but it is a very heavy material.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.cdukltd.co.uk/paperstone











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FURNICA - FUNCTIONS AS AN INTERNATIONAL FITTINGS SUPPLIER **BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS**

ESTABLISHED in 2016 by father and son team, Janusz and Kamil Siedzielnik, Furnica is now a trusted supplier of hinges, drawer slides, fittings and components replete with warehouse and office facilities in the UK, Poland and Germany all backedup by dedicated multi-lingual websites.

Among Furnica's main customers are KBB manufacturers and the company currently employs 22 people in total. Its UK facility is centrally located in Rugby in Warwickshire.

Janusz has been associated with the furniture industry since 1995. For 25 years he was a leading manufacturer of custom-made furniture and bespoke kitchens.

The experience he gained during this time, coupled with a wide knowledge of the furniture accessories market enables Janusz to anticipate and satisfy the needs of his customers.

Kamil has been closely associated with the furniture industry for 12 years. Throughout his career he has worked with several well-known European brands of made-to-measure furniture and furniture accessories manufacturers.

With his understanding of the needs of the carpentry industry, five years ago he created an online platform to deliver furniture accessories to customers in five European countries. During this time, this has created a multi-million pound turnover enterprise.

'Unlike many wholesalers, Furnica is a direct importer and producer of most of the products in its offer, explains head of marketing, Jacek Siewiaryn, speaking about Furnica's key strengths, which make the company stand out from its competitors.

'Thanks to this, customers can count on the best prices and



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a direct guarantee – because Furnica takes full responsibility for each product, from hinges and furniture runners to cable grommets and much more besides. To highlight this significant element, Furnica introduced the Furnicore emblem – products having this mark guarantee the highest quality, continues Jacek Siewiaryn.

'We are living In crazy world: Covid 19 and Brexit present considerable challenges for small, family-owned business – customers will be looking for stable suppliers of furniture materials and components and, of course, the price will be more important as never before,' says Jacek.

'The second factor, and probably the most important, is



logistics. Due to the very high prices of freight from China, the whole problem is not so much price as the actual availability of products.

'However, thanks to our three warehouses in Germany, Poland the UK, Furnica is able to deliver goods to any part of Europe within four working days. We believe that these two factors will be crucial over the next two years,' says Jacek.

According to Furnica the past 24 months have been an intense period with intensive development for the company.

'During this period, sales in five European markets quadrupled,' says Jacek.

ays Jacek.

'The increase in demand resulted in the expansion of the

warehouse in Poland and the opening of two new warehouses in Germany and the UK, he adds.

The past 18 months have also been a dynamic time for Furnica.

'We were able to launch a number of original products under the Furnica brand over the past year and a half, such as the 3D hinge and the entire line of push-to-open runners.

'Despite the difficulties of Brexit and Covid-19, for Furnica it has been a time of very intensive development and large sales increases in all markets.

'In 2020, Furnica established its branch in the USA and at the moment, work is underway to launch an e-commerce platform for this market,' points out Jacek.

Furnica says that, currently, the greatest emphasis is placed on improving its customer service and ensuring the shortest possible delivery times for its customers, adding that it is also focusing on developing the product range manufactured under the Furnica brand.

In addition, due to the dynamic growth of the markets in Italy and France, Furnica plans to open another new warehouse in France in 2022 in order to shorten delivery times to these markets.

At the moment, Furnica is focused on

introducing its new push-to-open drawer runners and a line of extravagant furniture handles.

In the meantime, it is looking primarily to the development of its associates – as Jacek says they are the most important part of the entire company.

'We are in the process of introducing a series of training programmes to maintain the knowledge of our employees at the highest level internationally, whilst not forgetting the importance of a healthy atmosphere and team spirit.

'After all, Furnica is about people, without them we would only be a company selling hinges and that's not what we want. We want to form a long-term cooperation with both employees and customers.concludes Jacek.

Want to find out more? www.furnica.co.uk



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THRIVING "PANELS AND MORE" BUSINESS DELIVERING FOR ITS CUSTOMERS IN COOKSTOWN AND MANCHESTER

LOCATED in Cookstown, Co Tyrone and Cheadle, Manchester, Cookstown Panel Centre (CPC) is a well-known business respected for its responsive, customer-oriented focus.

Established more than 30 years ago, its key customers include kitchen fitters, kitchen joinery firms, architects and designers – all of whom have come to appreciate CPC's breadth of products and its services.

The company is widely recognised as a "one-stop-shop" for the trade and boasts a comprehensive offering with everything from sheet materials (MFC, MDF, plywood, laminate, etc) to kitchen sinks, taps, hinges, drawers and much more.

The company's key suppliers include Egger, Blum and Reginox, alongside other major manufacturers and well-recognised brands.

With such a broad range of products, in reality there are few limitations when it comes to meeting the needs of designers and their clients.

With the ability to refine and manufacture a huge range of products, CPC offers the complete package ranging from bespoke cutting and edging a wide range of materials to post-forming and flat-bonding.

CPC says that its key strength is its customer service, its own fleet of delivery vehicles – and again – the one-stopshop for everything needed to create a kitchen.

For CPC the past 18 months have been very busy. High on the list of customers' requirements recently has been its cut and edge service,

square edge worktops, thinner worktops (25mm/16mm), a complete range of contrasting colours, as well as a complete range of grey tones.

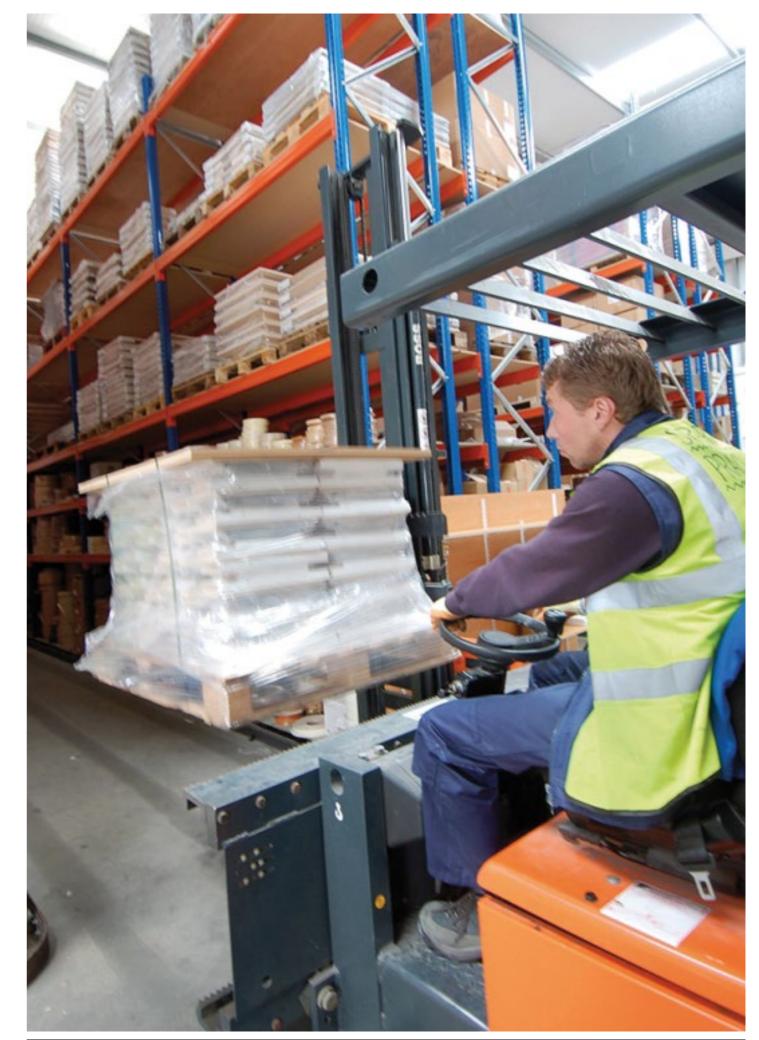
Cookstown's newly launched website allows customers to order 24/7 for both delivery and courier, as well as collection at our its counter.

At the moment, only Ireland is served by courier, but CPC is working towards UK coverage. Its own fleet can service anywhere in Northern Ireland.

Want to find out more? www.cookstownpanel.com







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