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## The Ditch List

Couple's conflicts revealed as people secretly get rid of partner's possessions

One in five (18%) Brits have thrown out their partner's belongings without telling them, according to research out today.

Forget emotional baggage, couples today are more concerned about the physical baggage their partner brings to a relationship with a whopping 70% of Brits earmarking items for the bin when they move in together.

The research, commissioned by Gumtree.com, reveals that 16% of women have refused to even consider co-habiting before their partner agrees to ditch their dodgy sofa or old T-shirts. And one in five men (20%) admit they probably wouldn't even notice if their partner secretly binned some of their belongings.

Top of everyone's list is their other half's clothes, but beyond that, women are sizing up 'junk male' – geeky items from their partner's younger years – as 15% want to ditch collectables like comics and toy soldiers. Men on the other hand want rid of 'crap-cessories' like handbags, shoes and belts, when they make the big move.

The top 10 his 'n' hers ditch list:

<b>He wants to get rid of her...</b>	<b>She wants to get rid of his...</b>
1. Clothes 16%	1. Clothes 23%
2. Accessories (handbags, shoes, belts etc) 14%	2. Furniture 20%

3. Furniture 13%	3. Collectables (toy soldiers, comics etc) 15%
4. Collectables (figurines, china dolls etc) 11%	4. Kitchenware (plates, mugs, cups etc) 14%
5. Pictures/ posters 11%	5. Pictures/ posters 14%
6. Kitchenware (plates, mugs, cups etc) 10%	6. Soft furnishings (cushions, rugs etc) 13%
7. Kitchen gadgets (whisks, mixers, scales etc) 9%	7. Books 11%
8. Soft furnishings (cushions, rugs etc) 9%	8. Kitchen gadgets (whisks, mixers, scales etc) 11%
9. Books 8%	9. Gadgets (gaming/computer equipment etc) 9%
10. CDs/vinyl 8%	10. CDs/vinyl 8%

Gumtree also found that a savvy 31% use the life change of moving in with a partner to make some swift cash by selling unwanted items. Whether it be surplus TVs, duplicate never-read War and Peace or Star Wars character collections, some smart movers are making a tidy nest egg of as much as £3,000 between them.

When asked why they didn't want to keep some of their partner's belongings, respondents listed lack of space (54%), a double up of possessions (51%) and a different taste (25%). Over a quarter of women (28%) confessed to throwing out some of their partner's belongings because they were linked to a previous relationship.

Anna Carter, 32, from London, said: "I recently moved in with my boyfriend, and with a baby on the way I knew from the start there were some things of his that would have to go. His French comic collection and computer war games were top of the list. We discussed it and luckily he agreed but only if

we found a good home for them. A narrow escape for the comics because I would have resorted to some 'accidental' binning if he hadn't agreed!"

Gumtree spokesperson Sophy Silver comments: "We all accumulate so many things we hardly ever use that it can be a real battle of wills amongst couples moving in together over what stays and what goes.

"If your partner isn't keen to get rid of things they've had for year or really like, the prospect of making some money from them could swing the decision. Especially if you agree to put the proceeds towards a new plasma screen or some new dining room chairs.

"Gumtree is a vibrant place for buying and selling goods with everything on offer from wardrobes, Wii's and washing machines to clothes, crockery and computers and it's worth unlocking the potential profit you're both sitting on without compromising your relationship."

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**For more information or case studies please contact the Gumtree press office at Lexis Public Relations on 020 7908 6589 or email [gumtree@lexispr.com](mailto:gumtree@lexispr.com)**

#### **Notes to Editor**

- Research carried out among 2,162 adults by YouGov, March 2008

#### About Gumtree.com

- Gumtree.com was created in London in March 2000 and now covers 60 cities across 6 countries - the UK, and US Ireland, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa
- It is the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds including flat share, flat rentals and jobs
- Some Fast Facts
  - 20,000 new ads in a day
  - 100,000 new ads in a week
  - Half a million new ads in a month
  - One million ads live on the site at any one time
  - 150 million page impressions every month
  - Around 6 million visitors a month
  - Gumtree.com users spend 5,360,000 minutes on the website each month

- Gumtree is your local community online. Home to all the things you'd expect from your local community; a place to find and advertise rooms, flats and houses, a notice board for selling and buying stuff, somewhere to find job or a date even just to chat with friends