



Looking for ways to make extra cash this year? The answer could be sitting in your home, garage or wardrobe...

Life for RENT!

We've all got stuff in our homes that we barely use, from bikes, prams and unworn clothing, to whole rooms or driveways. What if strangers would pay you to borrow them?

Got a driveway?

Hollie Parsons, 24, lives in Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan, with her partner, Darren. Living near two stations, they're in a handy location for those in the area who need to catch the train. Their private driveway has two spaces, but they only have one car, so they rent out their unused parking space to make extra cash. 'We use justpark.com to advertise,' Hollie explains. 'The website lets you describe your space, the availability, and how much you'd like to rent it for. 'We get around £6.40/£7 if the space is rented out for one full day (12 hours). It's not much, but we save anything we make.' Dan Wilderness, from money advice site thefinancialwilderness.com, earns over £1k a year (£95 per month) by renting out a space on his drive in Putney, London. The spot is ideal for commuters and the rent tends to be cheaper than station car parks. Dan uses

yourparkingspace.co.uk to let out his drive, while parklet.co.uk also provides a similar service.

Posh togs?

According to research by climate action group WRAP, the average adult has 118 pieces of clothing in their wardrobes, but 25 per cent goes unworn every year. Lisa Maynard-Atem, 45, from Manchester, acquired a collection of designer dresses while working as a social media manager for department store Harrods. Even though she no longer wore the gowns, she wasn't ready to part with them, so she decided to try renting them online instead. 'Not everyone can afford to

buy designer clothes outright,' says Lisa. 'As well as being cheaper, hiring them also has sustainability benefits.'

Her first rental piece was a Rixo dress which retails for about £300, but can be hired from Lisa for just over £33 for three days. With 20 dresses now on her books, she's earned over £7,000.

Lisa saves half of her earnings, and uses the other half to buy new pieces and maintain the ones she already has. Eventually, she'd like to put the money towards paying off her mortgage.

'I use hurrcollective.com and byrotation.com to rent out my pieces,' she says. 'The fees for both are 15 per cent, so if you've got the wardrobe, it's a good little earner as the payments really add up.'

Lisa's own experience of fashion renting inspired her to create stylisa.com. This means she can help other people monetise their wardrobes and turn

their unused clothes into an extra source of income.

A spare room?

During lockdown, Suzi Bewell, 47, and her husband, Michael, started to rent out two rooms in their house using spareroom.com. The additional income now totals over £1k a month.

Suzi admits that taking in lodgers won't work for everyone, but says it suits their family life.

'We earn enough to cover most of our mortgage. As a result, I've been able to work part-time while my kids are young. It works for us because we all eat at different times and get along well. We have to keep the house tidy and share communal spaces, but that's not difficult to do.'

Don't fancy sharing your home with actual people? What about housing their stuff instead?

'If you've a spare room, renting out the space as self-storage is a great way to generate passive income,' says Dave Sayce from



Lisa rents out her clothes

comparison site comparemymove.com. 'In 2023, the storage industry has been very lucrative, with 84 per cent of self-storage spaces currently full, meaning people are looking for space.'

'In the UK, on average, you can make £27.19 per ft² of storage space annually, so if you have a space of even 70ft² available, you could make £1,900 a year.'

All kinds of everything!

On the online marketplace fatllama.com, users can list everything from mountain bikes to tents, baby rockers and shoes. Fat Llama has a service charge of 25 per cent for all transactions, but it's free to sign up and list items.

Electric vehicle owners with charging points can rent out their charger to those who are unable to install one on co-charger.com.

Everyday household items can be rented out on pa-rent.co.uk. There's a wide range of categories, including entertainment, cleaning, gardening, leisure and baby care. The total rental fee is 20 per cent and items can be rented for days, weeks or even months. Lenders can list as many items as they like and set their own prices.

Maybe it's time for a look around your home. Could your surplus stuff or spare space start earning its keep in 2024?



Suzi lets out rooms in her home



Banish mould

In colder, wetter weather, your home is more susceptible to mould and damp. Left untreated, this can affect you and your family's health. If you aren't in a position to fork out for a dehumidifier, try...

Opening a window – especially if you're showering or drying clothes, as it stops the build-up of condensation. Make sure you close the door to stop the cold penetrating the rest of your house. And after your shower, keep your shower curtain spread out so that it can dry.

Putting salt in a bowl – it absorbs dampness from the air. Easy!

Going green – plants like snake plants, spider plants, sword ferns and peace lilies don't just look appealing, they take in moisture too.

Rearranging furniture – putting items right against walls can trap moisture, encouraging mould.

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Be a cheap date!

Valentine's Day is on the horizon, and some of us will be thinking about how to spoil our other half and what to do on the night. But spending quality time with your partner doesn't have to cost a lot. Things like fancy meals and tickets to events can wreak havoc on your budget, so instead, get the children off to bed early and enjoy a date night at home.

Supermarkets do lots of great deals on meals for two. So, put on a film and cosy up together on the sofa. Save the extravagant nights out for special occasions like anniversaries and big birthdays!



My son had outgrown his sweater, and it wasn't in good enough condition to donate to a charity shop, so I took out my needle and thread and made these mittens. It was so easy to do, and they're lovely and snuggly!

Maggie Cobbett, Ripon, North Yorkshire

STROKE OF GENIUS

Your brilliant ideas to make life easier



My kitchen stools had seen better days, so I bought some shiny fabric and used a staple gun to attach it. Now, my seats look as good as new and they really brighten up my kitchen!

Lucy Hodson, Hoylake, Wirral

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