



self storage explained

Welcome

to ABC Selfstore's guide to self storage.

It's our simple introduction to the, why, what and how of making more room - for yourself, your family, your business, your stuff.

It tells you what to expect, what to look for, and how to get the most from your storage provider - whoever you choose to store with.





What's inside...

In this guide we explain:

- ◆ Why you might need self storage
- ◆ What self storage is
- ◆ How self storage works
- ◆ How to choose who to store with

You might need storage if...

You just want to de-clutter your house.

You have lots of kit or equipment for your hobbies and nowhere to keep it.

You're moving home.

You're working away for a long period and need some extra space for your belongings.



If you're in business (or represent a business) you might need extra storage if...



You have lots of archive paperwork that you are required to keep by law.

You have stock - or seasonal stock - that you need flexible storage for.

Your business moves around and requires temporary location based storage.



Self storage is...

...a secure, self-contained spare room (more commonly referred to as a storage unit) which you rent - within a building full of secure, self-contained spare rooms.

You can rent units in a range of sizes to suit your needs.

The self bit...

Getting your stuff in and out is where the self bit comes in. Moving your belongings to-and-fro is down to you.

You can come and go as many times as you like during opening hours (most are open 7 days a week).

Where 24hr access is available you could even access your unit at 3am... if you feel like it.



How it works

It's pretty straight forward...

You estimate how much room you need
(every respectable storage company will be able to help you with that - but see our guide on the next page).

You choose who you want to store with
(We'll give you some pointers on what to look for later in this guide)

You sign a storage agreement with them
(and you'll need contents insurance - along with a padlock for your unit)



If you need packaging, such as boxes, bubble wrap or dust sheets: most storage locations offer them for sale.



You move your stuff into your unit.



Estimating your space...

Overestimating the amount of space you need is a really easy mistake to make. It's also costly if you get it wrong - as you'll be paying for space you don't need.

So much comes down to how well you pack the things you need to store.

All good storage companies will be able to offer advice on how best to pack things into your unit.

That's about the size of it...

Storage units are measured in square footage.
Here's our quick guide to how that translates in your real world:

Vehicles

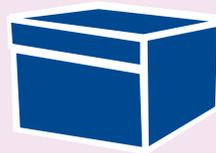


A = Transit Van 35 - 45 sq ft
B = Luton Van = 70 - 80 sq Ft
C = 7.5 Tonne Lorry 140 - 170 sq ft

Metric Conversion

A unit with a floor size of 5 feet by 2 feet
= 10 square feet
= approx 1 square metre

Boxes



8 x Tea chest or 25 x Archive boxes = 20 sq ft
20 x Tea chest or 50 x Archive boxes = 30 sq ft
per 100 Archive boxes = 40 sq ft (no aisle space)
per 100 Archive boxes = 60 sq ft (with aisle space)

Bedrooms



1 x Bedroom = 50 - 60 sq ft
2 x Bedrooms = 80 - 90 sq ft
3 x Bedrooms = 100 - 120 sq ft
4 x Bedrooms = 150 - 200 sq ft

Choosing who to store with

People, Price, Promotion, Place... when it comes to deciding who or what is important we all like different things.

Here are our top-tips for choosing who to store with...

Price

Prices vary for lots of reasons - mostly to do with location and demand - so be sure to do your homework. Make the most of low price guarantees and introductory offers but be wary of hidden and long-term costs.

Terms

It's also important to check minimum storage terms and how much notice you'll be required to give when you leave. Many companies ask for 4 or 2 weeks and will charge you if you don't give notice or run over. At ABC you'll only ever pay for the days you stay.

Customer service

Are the people at the store knowledgeable and genuinely interested in what you need? Are they keen to help and do they have policies that suit you rather than them?

Even little things - like making it easy for you to get a quote online - without having to provide pages of personal details.

If you are choosing online - all operators claim to have great customer service - so look for lots of genuine praise from current customers.



Promotions

You'll find lots of seemingly irresistible introductory offers, make the most of them - but also look beyond them at total storage costs. What happens when the offer ends?

Promotions such as 1 penny storage for 4 weeks are great - but what are the terms when the 4 weeks is up?

Place

Is the storage facility safe and secure? Are there little extras included as part of the deal like Free WiFi or refreshments?



The Storage Agreement

The storage agreement is the contract you sign with the storage company you choose.

It's the paperwork - a record of the terms, conditions and pricing you - and they - have agreed to.

All reputable storage companies will explain the important bits and help with anything you don't understand - before you sign.



Insurance

Most self-storage companies will require you to take insurance cover for your belongings while in store - so be sure to include the cost of insurance when comparing prices.

Moving in

Moving your stuff into your storage room is down to you.

Look out for and make the most of Free Van Hire, if that's not part of the deal ask about discounts or recommendations for local self-drive van hire.

If you'd rather not do it yourself all good storage companies will be able to recommend a 'man-in-a-van' type business who can help. Once you are at your store they should have plenty of trolleys to help you move your stuff into your unit.



**So that's the ins and outs of it.
Simple, straightforward, self storage.**

And of course - if you have any questions and are looking for storage in London - then we'd be delighted to help.



selfstore

call us on 0800 046 1955
or visit us at www.abcselfstore.co.uk