

4 In 10 Of Us Are Experiencing 'Extreme Gadget Obesity'



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My drawers are full of old gadgets. I have old MP3 players, mobile phones, digital cameras, plus a variety of old flash drives and charger cords. Mostly, I just can't be bothered to dispose of them properly. I know I'm not supposed to just throw them away, and for some items, I know I need to strip them of files or photos before I try to sell or recycle them. And in the end, I just haven't taken the time. So my digital clutter continues to grow.

I am not alone in this. Four out of 10 Americans will store unused electronic devices for at least two years, according to [a survey by used electronics marketplace uSell.com](#). They have termed this "Extreme Gadget Obesity." (This might be my favorite new term.) And while 93% of smartphone users say they'd like to sell their gadgets, only 39% of them follow through.

"I think there's this huge fear factor," says Darla DeMorrow, a professional organizer in Wayne, PA. "People are afraid that if they get rid of it, they're going to need it next week for sure. Literally every week I have a little bag in my car of things I know I can easily recycle that people would otherwise hang on to."





Do you have a drawer like this? (Photo credit: Adrian Black) [-]

Interestingly, uSell's data suggests that men and women who successfully shed their old electronic devices do so for different reasons. Men ditch old gadgets because they know they will lose value over time, while women have a strong desire to clean out home clutter.

No matter what your motivation, getting digital clutter out of the house can be a freeing (and profitable) enterprise. Here's what you should know:

You can get cash. If you have items that are less than three years old, consider selling on a site like [uSell](#), [Gazelle](#) or [NextWorth](#). Today uSell, for instance, is offering \$96.64 for a Verizon 32GB iPhone 5 in good condition. "Currently uSell accepts about 500 different phone models, both working and damaged," says uSell COO Nik Ramen. "The average user can sell his device in less than two minutes."

It's not just about phones. Many of the buy-back or resell sites also accept old iPads, tablets, iPods, video games, and game consoles.