

# Self Storage

## Consumer Awareness Guide



Compliments of  
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## **Self Storage – Options and Choices**

There is a definite need for more space in today's world. Most people today have many possessions and their homes seem to fill up sooner than they can handle. You may already have filled your attic, store or garage to the brim. Thankfully as this is the age of innovations, the modern day age presents us with a solution called Self Storage. Self Storage is nothing short of your very own warehouse. Imagine a place that you can have access to whenever you need to store your things at your own convenience. Many people today are discovering that it makes sense to rent a self storage unit for a variety of purposes. If you have always struggled with keeping your home organized and neat then the self storage solution works out just right for you. Many people with kids have the need for space more than anyone else.

### **Why Self Storage?**

First of all it is the convenience; there is no other method that is more convenient than self storage for storing your possessions. Don't even think about keeping them at your parent's home or filling up the garage until even the car doesn't fit in it. Secondly it is the access to your things that matter the most, today with automated self storage facilities it is even possible to have access to your things in the middle of the night. If you work odd hours or if you keep a busy schedule then it is a life saving solution. Most facilities today are focused and competitive so you are sure to get a great rate and if you look around and do your research right you will find a storage company that will go overboard to serve you. Everyone has a different need when it comes to storage and a different reason to choose storage. When you look for a facility, often there is a pressing need for it but a storage facility should also be considered for general purposes. Perhaps you need to consider always having some space around for keeping your house clutter free. Below we discuss various factors that one should keep in mind while considering a self storage facility.

## **Storage for Individuals**

Today's world is about independence and freedom. We are living in the era of globalization and the meaning of national boundaries is reducing as time moves forward. It is no longer uncommon to find people moving from one nation to another to work or at least between cities or states. In such a scenario where one can land up a job via the internet and they need to make an immediate move. It may not be possible to take all of one's possessions along to the new location. It may even work out cheaper to just rent a self storage facility and keep the unneeded things at the former location temporarily. This may also be a good idea if a person is not sure if they would like the new job or the new location and you might want to move back at a later date. Self storage gives you the freedom to do that without having to move yourself and all your things again and again. If you are the sort of professional who needs to keep going abroad frequently for stretched spells overseas it does not make sense to keep paying rent for an apartment back home. Simply putting your furniture and things in a self storage and paying a small fee for that monthly or annually is a much better option. It is also wise to consider self storage facilities if you are moving to a smaller apartment in the same city in case your room mate is moving out and thus you can save money on rent.

## **Self Storage for families**

Overrun by clutter? This is a common question the average family faces. Old toys that the kids never play with anymore. A Barbeque that is never used in the winter. A boat that will not be used for a while. Challenges like these stand in our face every day of our lives. Today we have much more stuff than the previous generation ever did. In this age of consumerism where we must always have the latest things we may not realize but we do have a lot of stuff! This calls for a new approach rather than just trying to keep putting things beneath the bed and other places where they would just be out of sight. If you do not have the space in your home than you must get the space elsewhere. As our homes and apartments get smaller in size and the size of our possessions increases one can not always throw away everything, something's can and will be used at a later date. Families often have more need for space than any other group of people. Children's old clothes and books, toys, lawn furniture, Christmas

ornaments have all been filling up our homes for years. Now you can conveniently take all the junk to a place where it will be stored in a safe location but yet it can be retrieved whenever it is need.

## **Self Storage for College Students**

If you are a student in a college or university, you present an annual night mare to your parents when you come back for vacations with all your stuff. Students often have many books that they have kept over the years because they still need to refer to them occasionally. As the years pass those books get consulted less and less but still can not be thrown away. Do not worry because if you rent a self storage space not only will it solve you space problems but it will also give you a good place to put your things during your breaks from the University. Most Self Storage companies give a great discount to students and they always seem to get special rates. So shop around before you make up your mind and you are sure to get someplace that is just right for your budget. Students can get storage in various sized lockers or rooms to keep their possessions. In the United States in California for example many self storage units are giving a 10% discount and a special discount during winters.

## **Storage for Military Personnel**

When you are on active duty abroad and you can not afford to keep an apartment back home it is a big worry about what to do with your things. An option could be to give them away or sell as much as you can. However this is a sheer waste, it is better to rent some self storage space for the duration that you will be abroad. This way you can always come back and start your life just where you left it. This provides a great convenience to military personnel who are doing their duty in far off places. A lot of storage companies recognize the special needs of army and military personnel and help them store their items at special prices. In fact military personnel form the majority of customers in some storage facilities today. It is no longer so difficult to locate a facility that is willing to provide you with a great service at a really fantastic rate if you are in the army. You need to ask when booking for your special discount, if you don't ask for it you will be charged normal rate.

## **Self Storage for Businesses**

You may have any type of business but one thing is for certain that your office space is precious. It represents who you are as a business. When a client walks in today they expect to see a professional front office but they also want to see a spacious one. If you are wasting precious floor area by storing your old paper work in a cramped back office it is just a sheer waste. A business may be big or small. It may be a large company or a not for profit one. The requirements will vary. If you are a small professional office you may be required to maintain records for years. These records are precious and may be needed at a moments notice. They should be stored in a place that is safe, dry and easy to access but at the same time does not take away your floor area. Retailers may have a need to keep their products at a nearby location and just keep what they can sell in their shops.

A charity may want to collect donated clothes or other goods at their front office but not necessarily want to keep them there. Today all these business needs can be met by the self storage industry. A dedicated business environment at some of the storage facilities can help you make a wise choice by shifting your storage needs to a storage facility. You get assisted by a professional manager usually at such facilities who can make your storage and retrieval process easy and manageable.

## **Moving and Relocation Services**

Many storage facilities today provide allied services like moving and relocation products. If you are shifting your residence. You may want to consider using these services. A good example of this service is the service provided by UHaul in the United States. You can combine the convenience of renting an Uhaul truck or moving vehicle with self storage. A 6X6X6 storage room costs around \$ 74 with UHaul in Southern California. Similar services are also given by many other providers. All in all it makes great sense to combine moving with storage, especially if you can not move all your furniture or household goods at the same time. Some Self Storage companies also offer packing material and other packing related services. You should try to find an all in one solution for the best results.

## **Portable Storage**

Portable Storage is the latest offering from many self storage companies. Today customers have the option of just packing their goods and calling the storage company. They will arrive at your doorstep and take your items to the facility themselves. Portable Storage combines the great convenience of storage with home pickup/delivery. What could be more convenient in case you are moving? It simplifies the matter further because you are already packed and all you have to do is handover your boxes. Many websites online give a good deal on portable storage though it is slightly priced higher than self storage. There are many companies out there and all provide good value for money if you do not have the adequate vehicle to use self storage or if you just like the convenience.

## **Recreational Vehicle and Boat Storage**

Let's face it, its not possible anymore to do a lot of things that were taken for granted some years ago. Many landlords impose restrictions on parking and if you own a RV then you would like to continue using it even if you move in to an apartment or a house where there is no parking space for it. Many Storage facilities today offer good deals on RV parking and facilities for marine equipment. Boats take a lot of space and if nothing else you do not want an unused boat sitting in your garage hoarding all the space which could be used for the second family car or for a workshop. There are many facilities that are especially designed for such purposes and they are increasingly popular because they offer Car Wash facilities as well. So if you look around chances are you are likely to find one that will take care of all your needs in one go. Some of them also provide RV charging stations, Dump Stations and other facilities that RV owners would want.

Usually the choices at such Storage facilities include both covered and uncovered parking spaces. If you find a storage facility where both parking and self storage are available then you could also store your camping equipment and other household items at the same time. In such cases it may be sometimes possible to find a good deal or a discount. RV storage in Denver near the Metro station for example costs around \$ 70 for a 40' space per month.

## **Wine Storage**

The benefits of drinking wine are immense. Latest research has proved that drinking wine can be helpful for the overall health. This has led to a revival in wine drinking and appreciation. However not all of us have space in our homes for a wine cellar. Some older homes do not even have a basement. In such cases unless major renovation work is done it is not possible to have a cellar. However with special Self Storage facilities it has become possible for everyone to store their finest bottles in a safe, secure and appropriate environment. If you are a wine collector you will be delighted with the options available today and you can most likely find a convenient location near you.

The best part is that these facilities provide a controlled environment where you wine experiences proper temperature and exposure to ultra violet light is prevented. Storage is available in a variety of convenient sizes and it is possible for you to find a size that suits your collection. A lot of these facilities also provide other wine related services like racks and corkscrews to their customers sometimes. Wine also experiences vibration free storage. Humidity is controlled to appropriate levels. Rates may vary but as an example, for a 12 case vault it is as cheap as \$ 17 per month.

## **Storage for Professionals**

Lawyers, Doctors, Dentists and Architects all work independently at times. Independent practice also means that you keep your records yourself. These records are crucial because they give you information about your clients, patients and customers. You can not be lax in any way about maintaining proper records. It is also true that there are stringent regulations about such record keeping.

However the space may be a constraint in your office. Keeping your records from the office at home is not an option either. Backrooms and Basements can fill very soon. You need a professional storage solution to manage your space problems. Some of these storage facilities also offer profession record management services to help you manage your records with ease. These services pay for themselves over a period of time considering that you will save yourself a lot of inconvenience. Today more and more storage companies want to focus on a niche and a variety of services are targeted at a particular market. There are companies that specialize in maintaining and keeping Medical Records

alone. Approximate charges are \$ 0.40 for 24 x 15 x 12 (Bankers Box ~ Legal). You can find many more competitive rates online and if you do a bit of research in your local market for business storage.

## **Storage for Online Retailers.**

Self Storage provides a cheap and an easy way to solve your warehousing problems if you are an online retailer. It is possible today to find a solution that is cheap and easy to access. If you sell goods on websites like E-bay or other online auction sites it makes perfect sense to opt for Self Storage. Self Storage eliminates any need for you to have a warehouse for your company or your auctions. It is obvious that you need to cut down your costs because you are a small business and you can not always afford to have the man power to manage your own warehouse.

A lot of self storage locations provide extra services for such clients. You can take advantage of the special offers available if you are an online retailer in such cases. Small Business Storage are provided a lot of facilities by some storage providers, for example in the United Kingdom short term contracts with no minimum stay period are available and much more to business customers.

## **Mail Retention and Forwarding**

Many storage companies offer a great deal of extra services. One of the great services out there is Mail retention and forwarding. You could get a great address in a business location and receive your mail there while you may be anywhere in the world. For a small monthly fee these companies will hold your mail and send them to you either on a weekly or a monthly or a yearly basis. This is great whether you are a business or an individual. Those who are living abroad but may still want to get cheap rates for magazine subscriptions or who want to hold their mail while they are away, are using this service more and more. Many such services even offer mail address of premium locations like Manhattan for example. Most companies even offer free shipping insurance and storage for the first 45 days free for such a service.

## Conclusion

Self storage today means different things to different people. It entirely depends on what your needs are. There are some self storage companies out there that can fulfill your needs. With services so diverse and varied it is possible that there is a rate or a service that is just right for you. Self Storage has become more automated, more secure and much more convenient than it ever was before. Therefore it is not surprising that many people today opt for storing their things in self storage than ever before.

It is not a big surprise that due to rapid globalization and the age of consumerism today, we have more things than our forefathers ever did, however we are attached to our pasts as well and our possessions often remind us of the good times in the past. Therefore we do not just toss things out but we want to share them with our future generations. People have over the years inherited prized heirlooms from their family and they have some of their own things that they prize equally. However with the constraint on space and growing rise in the price of property it is not possible for all of us to keep our things in our homes alone. The Self Storage industry fills a crucial gap between the storage space in our homes and our possessions.

The services and the products that this industry provides are priced at reasonable rates and most people can afford to rent storage spaces for a long time without finding it as a financial burden. In fact it is not uncommon to find people who have been renting storage space for upwards of 10 years. As the time progresses newer innovations have come in that have transformed storage spaces in to parking lots for our recreational vehicles, wine cellars for our wine and a temporary home for clutter before we can sort it.

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