

Dirty secrets in bedrooms

We eat, store tools and let pets in them



Chatswood's Kirstie McWhannell is one of many Aussies who let their pet sleep in their bedroom, according to a new survey. Picture: Sam Rutty

MATT BAMFORD

WHAT'S hiding inside your bedroom?

Power tools, camping gear and pets are just some of the weird and unusual items Aussies are choosing to keep in the rooms where they sleep.

A new survey conducted by Swedish flatpack furniture giant IKEA shows 2.6 million people see bedrooms as the perfect home for everything from car parts to toys and sports equipment.

The survey found 40 per cent allowed their pets to sleep under the doona while more than half used their bedroom as storage.

And it's not simply storing strange items either. Nearly two-thirds confessed to regu-

larly eating or drinking in bed, with one in seven having dinner there.

Kirstie McWhannell, of Chatswood, admits the bedroom is no longer the most private room of her house.

Her corgi, Captain, sleeps in bed with her and husband Andrew every night.

"I would say growing up it was nothing like this, it seems as people are getting busier and house prices are going up you're compromising on space," Ms McWhannell said.

"I don't really let people go in my bedroom very often, I don't have enough storage so I don't want them to see.

"A lot of my friends are in similar situations.

"It's definitely changed because there's not as much

space. I live in an apartment so I only have limited space."

It seems we're all struggling to keep our bedrooms tidy too.

Many of us are neglecting to make our beds each day with one in 10 admitting to rarely or never making it.

And a frightening 8 per cent wait more than two months before putting their sheets in the wash.

No wonder more than a third would be too embarrassed to show a new partner their bedroom.

In fact, 28 per cent of singles report they have been turned off by the state of a prospective partner's bedroom and nearly two thirds of males reveal they resort to buying new linen to impress a partner.