INTERNATIONAL OCD FOUNDATION

Hoarding Center

Clutter Image Rating

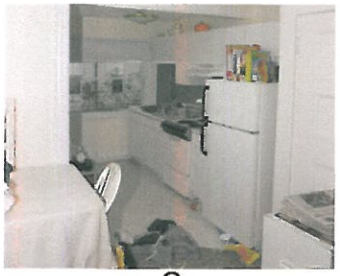
In our work on hoarding, we've found that people have very different ideas about what it means to have a cluttered home. For some, a small pile of things in the corner of an otherwise well-ordered room constitutes serious clutter. For others, only when the narrow pathways make it hard to get through a room does the clutter register. To make sure we get an accurate sense of a clutter problem, we created a series of pictures of rooms in various stages of clutter – from completely clutter-free to very severely cluttered. People can just pick out the picture in each sequence comes closest to the clutter in their own living room, kitchen, and bedroom. This requires some degree of judgment because no two homes look exactly alike, and clutter can be higher in some parts of the room than others. Still, this rating works pretty well as a measure of clutter. In general, clutter that reaches the level of picture # 4 or higher impinges enough on people's lives that we would encourage them to get help for their hoarding problem. These pictures are published in our treatment manual (Compulsive Hoarding and Acquiring: Therapist Guide, Oxford University Press) and in our self-help book (Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving, and Hoarding, Oxford University Press).

Clutter Image Rating Scale: Kitchen

Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.

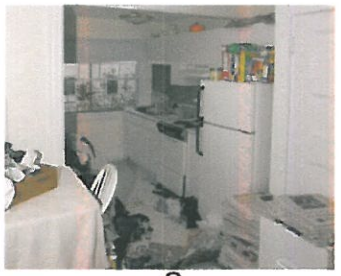
CLUTTER-HOARDING SCALE

1



2

LEVEL 1 & 2 GREEN-LOW



3

LEVEL 3 & 4 BLUE- GUARDED

4

5

6

LEVEL 5 & 6 YELLOW- ELEVATED

LEVEL 3 & 4 BLUE- GUARDED

7

8

LEVEL 7 & 8 ORANGE- HIGH

9

LEVEL 9 RED- SEVERE

CLUTTER-HOARDING SCALE

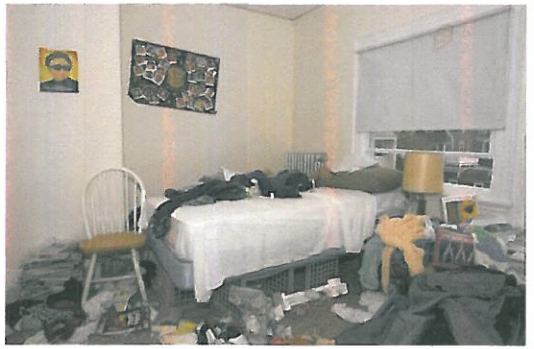
Clutter Image Rating: Bedroom

Please select the photo that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.

1

LEVEL 1 & 2 GREEN-LOW

2



3

LEVEL 3 & 4 BLUE- GUARDED

4

LEVEL 3 & 4 BLUE- GUARDED

5

LEVEL 5 & 6 YELLOW- ELEVATED

6

7

8

LEVEL 7 & 8 ORANGE- HIGH

9

LEVEL 9 RED- SEVERE