



London, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## **72% OF BRITS ARE PLANNING SPRING RENOVATIONS**

### **Europcar survey reveals a nation of up-cyclers and DIYers - although nearly a third admitted to a DIY disaster thanks to inaccurate measuring**

Now that the first hints of spring are finally in the air, a Europcar survey<sup>1</sup> has found almost three quarters of Brits are planning to make changes to their home. From replacing a few pieces of furniture (30%) to renovating the entire home (20%), 72% of respondents are planning to refresh their homes this springtime. And there appears to be a growing trend to re-use, recycle and repurpose, with less than half of respondents opting for new furniture every time.

- 20% have already got to work updating their homes
- 74% will attempt at least some DIY
- Nearly a third (28%) check out second hand options before making a purchase
- 30% mix and match of new and used
- 9% buy the majority or all of their furniture second-hand
- One in ten can't DIY as much as they want due to lack of suitable transport for furniture, materials and equipment

According to the Europcar research, the main reason for choosing preloved items is cost (44%). However, the appeal of unique and vintage finds (28%) and sustainability (26%) are key reasons for going down the recycling and repurposing route. Plus, a quarter said they prefer the challenge and creativity of upcycling a used item, and 24% like the fact that second hand items are an instant solution compared with waiting for delivery of new pieces.

Commenting on the Europcar research, Radio and TV broadcaster, Dominic Wood, said: "It's great to see the growing popularity of second hand and vintage items, as well as the number of people willing to give DIY a go. My own experience during the pandemic proved that you can get a really personalised result by doing it yourself. And that not only saves cash; it also reduces waste and creates a unique home, a triple-win."

#### **Dominic's Top Tips**

- Don't rush into a new job without researching
- Use YouTube for tutorials
- Make sure you have everything you need at home before you start a job
- Don't attempt electrical work
- Don't rush
- Enjoy it!

When it comes to making changes to a property, 74% of respondents to the Europcar survey said they would happily get stuck into the emulsion and do the internal painting. Nearly half (46%) said they would be able to build their own storage and 36% would update light fixtures themselves. A quarter said they would repurpose old furniture and 24% would lay their own laminate flooring.

However, whatever their reasons for carrying out work themselves, many respondents admitted to previous DIY disasters. Inaccurate measuring (28%), lack of correct tools (28%) and botching the job through lack of experience were the main offenders, closely followed by underestimating the complexity of a project (21%) and taking shortcuts (19%).

“Moving home is extremely expensive, and the continued high cost of living and unpredictable interest rates are leading many people to improve not move,” added Sarah Clarke, Consumer Marketing Manager at Europcar.

“But, with a nation so keen to get stuck into the DIY, it is a shame the ambition can be halted in its tracks by a simple lack of transport. Even those with a large family car may not want to fill it with rubbish for a tip run, or risk tearing the interior with the leg of a vintage table on the way home from a car boot sale. Hiring a van can be a much more practical solution, enabling DIYers, antique hunters and creative up-cyclers to transport their materials and unique finds easily.”

Europcar offers a wide choice of vans, from short and long wheelbase to Luton panel vans as well as the Mercedes-Benz eVito electric van, all available from a network of locations across the UK. Reservations by the day, week or longer can be made at [www.europcar.co.uk](http://www.europcar.co.uk), Delivery and Collection also available for even greater convenience.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Europcar Mobility Group**

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Europcar Mobility Group offers to individuals and businesses a wide range of car and van rental services, be it for a few hours, a few days, a week, a month or more, on-demand or on subscription, relying on a fleet of more than 250.000 vehicles, equipped with the latest engines including more and more electric vehicles.

Its brands address differentiated needs, use cases and expectations: Europcar® - a global leader of car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - a frontrunner at providing low-cost car rental services in Europe, Fox-Rent-A-Car®, one of the main players in the car rental market in the US, with a "value for money" positioning, Buchbinder®, one of the most important players in car and light

commercial vehicle rental in Germany, and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders of car-sharing (BtoB, BtoC).

Customers' satisfaction is at the heart of the Group's ambition and that of its more than 8,000 employees, everywhere Europcar Mobility Group delivers its mobility solutions, thanks to a strong network in 140 countries (including 16 wholly owned subsidiaries completed by franchisees and alliance partners).

More information: [www.europcar-mobility-group.com](http://www.europcar-mobility-group.com)

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<sup>i</sup> Research carried out online by Research Without Barriers (RWB) between 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The sample comprised 2,008 UK adults.