

MUSEUM OF THE HOME

Documenting Homes collecting policy Stay Home project – April 2020

Background to Documenting Homes

The Museum of the Home started the archive [Documenting Homes](#) in 2007 with the aim to capture experiences of home from a diverse range of people. The project allows them to share images, audio and testimony about their past and present homes.

Documenting Homes is a constantly expanding archive with nearly 8,000 items. It represents homes from the 1900s up to the present day.

Since 2007 we have led on various collecting projects with targeted audiences and themes and we continue to develop the Documenting Homes archive.

Stay Home project brief and call out

The Museum of the Home has launched a new Documenting Homes collecting project called Stay Home.

This project aims to document homes focusing on people's home lives during the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown in place across the UK.

It will form part of the Museum of the Home's extensive Documenting Homes archive.

With many families and individuals self-isolating, our homes have never been more important.

How are you using your home? What does home mean to you right now?

As the Museum of the Home we must document this extraordinary moment, to acknowledge and understand the many lives that have been affected and how we are constantly adapting our home life through this uncertainty.

How are you using your home? Does your living room now have multiple uses as a work place, school or gym? If you have any outdoor space what are you using it for?

Are you leaving home to carry out your role as a key worker? Separated from your family or loved ones? Spending considerably more time with your flatmates or family?

Project process

To be a part of this new national collecting project Stay Home, we will ask participants to submit the following things:

- Answers to 7 questions about their home
- Up to 5 photos of their home – of one room, several rooms or an outdoor space
- Testimony that explains how these spaces in their home are being used and how that has changed
- Some brief demographic information

All participants must agree to the **Archive agreement**.

Participants can also submit diary entries that span one month. Entries don't need to be daily, they can be every other day or weekly. Diaries can be written or voice recorded.

All information about Stay Home will be on the Museum of the Home website.

[For the Stay Home questionnaire](#)

[For the Archive agreement](#)

This is the first time we have launched a collecting project as an immediate response to what's happening in society right now. It will inform what rapid response collecting looks like for the Museum of the Home.

Project reach - how will we reach a broad range of participants?

Stay Home is a national call out project, aiming to reach as broad a range of participants as possible.

It is published on the Museum's website and will be pushed out through our social media channels. We will also use our PR links to ensure that the project gets profile and traction locally and nationally.

We will work in partnership with community organisations across the country to ask them to share with their networks and build on our existing relationships and networks also.

How will the Museum of the Home use the submissions?

- The Museum will acquire the submissions into the collection.
- Academics, journalists, and artists will use them for research.
- We will display content within exhibitions physically and also digitally.
- The Museum will use the content to compare and contrast the myriad ways people are using their homes.
- We will use images, diary entries and testimony on our social media channels and for press and communication purposes.

Restrictions

- We can't accept any images or audio files that are not clear or that have distorted sound
- We won't accept nudity in photos or video entries. We will be using the images online and in public spaces.
- As we are a small team at the Museum we may not be able to add all submissions we receive into the archive – our selection criteria is structured to ensure we represent the diversity of the UK population.
- We understand that some of the information submitted may be of a sensitive nature therefore if a participant wishes to retract any of the material submitted they can contact stayhome@museumofthehome.org.uk to let us know and we will do our best to facilitate their request.

Documenting Homes continues to be in line with the Museum of the Home's new vision and mission statement.