

# The Reader

(advertisement)

**How many books is too many?**

We've all seen those property shows—the ones where people are staging their homes for sale, or those in which people are at risk because they've been hoarding stuff for years and now the floors of their house are about to collapse. One item that's targeted by the organization specialists who help these people declutter their houses is books.

Some people do believe that you can have too many books. They argue that books add to the clutter in a house and that one should follow the one-in, one-out policy of book buying where you have to get rid of a book every time you acquire a new one.

How on earth would great personal libraries get built up if one adhered to that kind of thinking? Sure, it's wise to weed out the dreck from one's collection. One does occasionally buy a book in error. And, I can see passing on the mystery novels you've read, once they've gone the rounds of family and friends. But honestly, wouldn't you feel naked or somehow bereft if you didn't have all of those old friends surrounding you—on the wall behind your desk, in piles wherever you sit in the house, and sometimes just plain hiding in a closet so your spouse won't know you've succumbed once again to the lure of a book?

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