

An unusual use for filing cabinets!

As the 21st century advances, more businesses are storing information electronically. Filing cabinets for paper document storage are becoming less in demand as we move towards the paperless office. As computer servers move in the filing cabinets move out, but where? While hard copies of certain documents will always need to be held, such as legal papers, but the once popular filing cabinet is being squeezed out of the modern office.



Martin Parham works for [Herbiseed](#), a company which he founded over 25 years ago. They are a specialist grower of unusual seeds and plants. The small family business grows seeds of several hundred types of plants and sells mostly weeds for agricultural research and wildflowers for landscaping, with a special emphasis on Chiltern and Thames Valley locally native species.

Despite being an established business, Herbiseed doesn't have an especially large need for document storage; nevertheless the humble filing cabinet fulfils an essential role in the seed growing business.

Martin explains: "For us it didn't matter whether the filing cabinets were old or new, whether the colours matched or even if the locks worked, they just needed to have one important feature: to be mouse proof! We spend a season growing the seeds and keep stocks in flood proof storage but in an agricultural environment mice can eat their way through thousands of pounds worth of seeds. It's simple: an old filing cabinet is the perfect way for us to protect our stock. It's made of unchewable metal and when closed has no holes for mice to get in. The added bonus is that we're quite organised with our storage too!"



"The Retrader website was a perfect way for me to get hold of a dozen more filing cabinets at a time when we were expanding our storeroom. We shall be keeping an eye on the website for other items which we can turn to good use. I'd recommend the site to any businesses: you never know what your old stuff might be used for!"