

The fourth drawer

Every home has one - a fourth drawer.

The first drawer is for cutlery and just below it the second one for utensils.

The third drawer has a range of storage items from tea towels and tinfoil to glad wrap.

The fourth drawer is for everything else with no specific home. Over time it becomes the collection place for rubbish. There may be some things of value here but you'll have to dig deep - they will be hard to find amongst the chaos. This could also be called your junk drawer.

Not only does every home have a fourth drawer but everyone has one!

Here's how it works.

Your first drawer is for your basic tools of trade.

The second drawer is for your utensils, the special abilities that set you apart from others; the strengths that you play to every day.

The third drawer is for your "wrap up, cover up and clean up" tools; no one is perfect and we all wrap up, cover up or clean up.

The fourth drawer is your junk drawer. When you've gone through all your other drawers and you can't find anything that works you go searching through the fourth drawer and then let rip.

Others watching on or at the receiving end ask, "Where on earth did that come from?" - the fourth drawer.

The fourth drawer comes into play when you are tired, under stress, outside your comfort zone, facing uncertainty or at the limit of your competency.

Most people have no idea what's in their fourth drawer so here's what you could look for. . . resentment, disappointment, jealousy, cynicism, bitterness, insecurity, fear and a host of other traits from a wounded soul.

Sooner or later you'll have to clean out your fourth drawer - if not, one day it will spill out onto the floor and create a big mess.

So the next time you ask "Where did that come from?" you know the answer . . . the fourth drawer.

Questions:

Reflecting on your personal leadership, do you know what's in the fourth draw?

In what ways could the fourth draw derail your leadership?

What's in the fourth draw of your organisation?

What do you know is there but are avoiding dealing with?