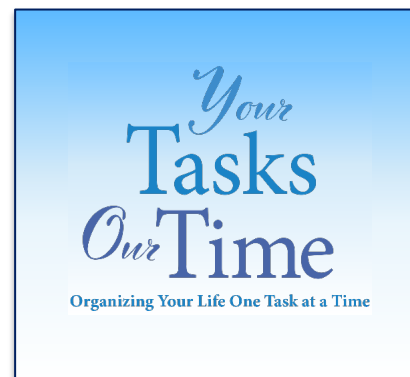


# TIPS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR GARAGE

Many garages end up being overrun with miscellaneous items. Simplify the space by incorporating a few key organizing tips.

## SORT AND PURGE

- ☐ Go through all the items in your garage, one item at a time, to decide what you will keep, what can be donated, and what needs to simply go into the trash.
- ☐ Try to resist the urge to keep all those “just in case” items. The reality is we rarely, if ever, end up using those miscellaneous items that we keep just in case we need them in the future.
- ☐ As you go through your items, try to put them into piles of similar items. For example, pile all the gardening items together, all the tools together and all the sports equipment together.



## PLAN OUT ORGANIZING SOLUTIONS

Once you have sorted all the items you decided to keep, you will have a clear picture of what needs to go back into the space.

- ☐ Look at each group of items you have sorted to decide what is the best organizing solution.
- ☐ Many people use bins to store items in the garage. Bins are a good solution because they keep the items protected from any dust, dirt or critters that may get in there. Also, bins can easily be wiped down if they get dirty. Clear bins are particularly helpful because it allows you to see what is inside the bin without having to pull it off a shelf or open it up.
- ☐ As a rule of thumb, the size of the items should correlate with the size of the bin. Large items in large bins. Small items in small bins.
- ☐ One option is to stack bins on top of each other in rows. Another option is to get shelving units and place the bins on the shelves, so you do not have to shuffle bins around when you need something. Shelving units with adjustable shelves allow you to modify your storage based on the size of the items being stored.
- ☐ Shelving units are also a good option for the awkward items that do not fit nicely into a bin. For example, that light up reindeer that sits on your front lawn during the Christmas season can lay nicely on the top shelf.
- ☐ Be sure to label all the bins so it's easy to know what's inside each bin.
- ☐ Small items like hand tools are better suited in smaller storage solutions, like in a toolbox, a unit with drawers or on a pegboard on the wall.
- ☐ There are also a variety of specialty hooks that you can utilize to get items up off the floor. There are hooks for shovels, brooms, hoses, beach chairs, bikes and kayaks ... just to name a few.
- ☐ Sporting equipment can be a challenge to keep organized. They have specialty storage units specifically for sports equipment. Or you can think outside the box and choose to utilize hooks to hang sports bags. A cabinet with open cubbies for helmets, mitts, skates, and cleats. An open bin to round up balls. A tall bin for bats or clubs. The possibilities are endless.

## ZONED OUT

- ☐ When putting away all your items, it's best to designate zones for each category. For example, put all the camping gear together so everyone knows what section of the garage to search if they need camping equipment.
- ☐ And remember, keep the hazardous chemicals out of reach of your pets and children! To dispose of hazardous waste, check with your township or county. Many have strict guidelines about disposal, and they may offer designated drop-off dates.