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GARAGE organization 101

DISCOVER ALL THE OPTIONS YOU HAVE WHEN REDESIGNING YOUR DREAM GARAGE

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Take a moment and walk into the den of loosely contained mayhem you call a garage. Do you want a way to dramatically add to the usable square footage of your home? Take advantage of your garage. This part of your property does not count toward your home's total square footage. But, if you play your cards right, you can use that prime real estate to your benefit with smart approaches to garage storage. Getting rid of the clutter and shifting your stuff off the floor gives you necessary room to move. Plus, it makes your home happier. All you have to do is take an honest look at the way you need to use your garage. Make a list of all the items–including the lawn mower, camping gear and bicycles–you will keep there. Then, create a plan for the storage that will change the way you live your life.

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4 COMPONENTS OF GREAT STORAGE

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EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE
YOU CAN EASILY RETRIEVE YOUR ITEMS
ORGANIZED IN A WAY THAT FITS YOUR LIFESTYLE
BUILT TO LAST

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First, you should know that garage storage may be useful or a hindrance, depending on how you use it. Excellent garage storage:

- 1. EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE
- 2. YOU CAN EASILY RETRIEVE YOUR ITEMS
- 3. ORGANIZED IN A WAY THAT FITS YOUR LIFESTYLE
- 4. BUILT TO LAST

Too many people invest in storage without really thinking about how they will use it. If you buy storage based on how you feel you should use your garage, it will not work as well for you. Instead, think about how your garage could make your life easier. Then, put that plan into action.



Have you ever walked into your kitchen and seen a trail of dirty footprints across your nice, clean floor? You wish you had a stopgap solution for that mess. Winter and spring are particularly bad for wet or muddy shoes making your home filthy. The answer is to set up a place to store shoes in the garage. That way, when everyone gets home, they take off their shoes and walk in the house with clean feet. You have a variety of options for custom shoe storage, from cubbies and shelves to storage benches. Got boots? Arrange for cubbies or shelves that are tall enough to accommodate them.



MULTI-PURPOSE BENCHES

A bench is an incredibly useful tool in the garage. While benches do take up floor space, you can minimize the loss of moving room. Build cubbies or baskets into your bench, so that you can store shoes or other outerwear in them. Make high-backed benches even more efficient by adding coat hooks to the top. That way, when you sit down to take off your shoes, you have a perfect place to hang your coat as well.

OVERHEAD STORAGE

WHEN LOOKING FOR EXTRA STORAGE LOOK UP

The garage ceiling is the most underused part of the garage. And yet, the ceiling is the perfect place to put items you only need seasonally. Hanging storage is easy to install from the ceiling, and can provide a lot of room for those lightweight but bulky items that take up so much space on your garage floor. Wrap up your sports equipment and balls and put them in a hanging basket. Or, use overhead storage for your large, light seasonal decorations.

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You probably have a lot of tools you would like to store reasonably in your garage, with a way that makes these tools easy to find in moments. Slat wall is here to save the day. Slat wall is a wall storage solution that looks professional and works very well. Each section has a number of slats, into which shelves, racks and hooks can be easily slid. The accessories are myriad, including:

BALL CLAWS

- **D** POWER TOOL HOLDERS
- 🜔 GARDEN TOOL RACKS

You will love the sturdiness of the system as much as you like having a simple way to hang your shovels and rakes on the wall.

WORKBENCHES

Once you get all the clutter up off the floor, you notice that your garage has a lot of space available for you to work, as well. For that, you will need a workbench. The nice thing about a workbench is that you can make it as big or little as you want. If all you need is a flat surface and perhaps some shelving above it, that is simple to attain. But, you can do more. Consider creating a workbench with a built-in place for a circular table saw, plus slat wall or pegboards against the wall to store your power tools and accessories.



At some point, you realize that you need storage for the bigger items. These may be well-built or freestanding, depending on your specific needs. Do you want a spot to store extra food and nonfood consumable items, or camping gear? Utility shelving is for you. The shelving is sturdy but simple, providing maximum space with minimal clutter. Whether you choose metal or wood depends on what you plan to store there. Some food items will keep better on a wood surface. But, with equipment that gets dirty easily, you may be happier with utility shelves made from metal.

CUSTOM CABINETRY



The ultimate in garage storage is custom cabinetry. This looks highly professional and adds the most to your home's resale value. Custom cabinetry allows you to hide all of your cleaning products, seasonal storage items, garden tools and small items. With your choice of wood types, stains and colors, you get the style that fits your home's overall décor. And, since the design is fully custom, no tool or bin is too large or small to accommodate. The cabinets can be built around your lawn equipment, as well, for a perfect fit. All you have to do is figure out what you need to store and where, and create custom cabinetry that will suit your unique situation.

ORG Home

As it turns out, garage storage is pretty easy to obtain. Of course, you must be very clear about your needs and expectations, so you can make sure you cover all of your bases, from sports and camping to industrial work. With a custom garage storage system designed to meet all your challenges, you can bid goodbye to mayhem and say hello to a more organized life.



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