

Garage Organization: Tips from an Expert on Garage Floors, Storage Cabinets and Shelving

By Bill West, CRS



The majority of American homeowners live with a landfill attached to their homes. Lucky to nudge a car into the garage and luckier still to emerge from the car once it is parked; homeowners wrestle through the jungle of disorganization on a daily basis. Clutter rules in the garage, and now it is time to rule out clutter. Consider some basic objectives, and create a vision beyond the clutter that has littered garages during the last 100 years: when in doubt, throw it out.

If it's on the garage floor, it's time to store

Eliminate clutter-buildup that has overtaken the garage. Have a garage sale, give to charity, take a trip to the real landfill, and take a deep breath and get rid of all the excess that not only blocks entry into the home but the clutter that blocks energy too. If it's on the floor, it's time to store. A basic premise in garage organizing is to free up floor space. But how does one deal with the lawn mower, wheelbarrow, snow blower, bicycles, and other large items?

One method is to build an enclosed lean-to shed on the side of the garage. With dimensions of 4' x 8'; this addition will free up valuable floor space in the garage. Another option is the storage shed in the backyard. Many subdivisions are regulated by covenants and restrictions. One may be required to obtain architectural committee approval before any addition is built.

Use garage shelving and garage storage cabinets to "organize to visualize."

If you can see it, you can find it. The easiest method is to create a wall storage solution. Many solutions exist such as hooks, racks, custom-made cabinets, and yes, the lowly nail is a solution, but none offer a flexible solution.

Pegboard is out. Display wall is in. Visit a retail store that displays merchandise on the wall, and these same grooved panels offer the most flexible storage solution for the garage that is available today. Display wall by Marlite is manufactured in 4' x 8' panels. Made with a durable finish, this product needs no painting or maintenance. Drill drywall screws into the grooves of the panels into the stud wall in the garage to install. Hooks fit in the grooves making placement a snap. And the hooks are manufac-

ured in varying lengths from one inch to 12 inches, so a variety of objects can be placed anywhere there is a wall.

The look, durability, and flexibility are all superior benefits that exist with Display wall. Storage requirements change over time. Having the flexibility of lifting a hook from the grooved panel enables one to change or add items stored on the wall for Maximum Vertical Storage. And once a folding chair or lawn implement can be seen, it is very easy to find. Once the Display wall is attached to the garage wall, there are no holes to drill or nails to hammer; simply arrange or rearrange the hooks.

Cabinets for garage storage: a low maintenance option

Rubbermaid cabinets. These cabinets are affordable and durable. There is nothing to paint and nothing to maintain. All that is required is a rubber mallet to hammer the interlocking pieces together. Then screw the cabinets to the wall. The load capacity is about 35 pounds according to the manufacturer. Cabinets allow one to categorize items to be stored and used routinely. Place lawn and garden items such as smaller tools, plant food, and pots in a cabinet.

Then place automotive products such as motor oil, anti-freeze, and other lubricants in another cabinet. Plan to simplify, and simplify the plan - once storage needs have been identified, one can create the required shelving, cabinet, and wall-storage system. As society becomes more complicated, the need for greater organization and simplification occurs.

The basic concept outlined above is a step in that direction. Outer space requires rocket science, but garage space requires no science at all. Build fun into creating usable space in the garage with a bit of ingenuity and planning.

For more, go to www.tlccgarageworks.com/home.html

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