

Newsletter July 2012

Garage Organizing – At It's Best!

The key to any organizing job is to group items together in like categories - I know you have all read this before from me. So do the same with the garage. As you pull things out of the garage make piles of 'like categories'. Some examples that come to mind: gardening tools, outside toys, bikes/ride on toys, car supplies, household tools, shoes.

Make sure as you are going through this sorting process you are also making a pile for items that are garbage (broken beyond repair), items you no longer need, use or LOVE, and items that belong somewhere besides the garage.

Now the garage is empty - sweep it and clean it. An organizing project is always SO much nicer if the place is clean.

My rule for the garage is to hang as much on the walls and ceiling as you can. My husband put peg board up on two walls of the garage and it has been one of the best things we have ever done. Peg board is inexpensive and versatile. If you don't like the brown color - paint it. There are many different shapes and size of hooks to use on your peg boards. You can also get baskets and shelves that hang on your peg board.

Another storage must have is shelving units. Make sure you measure so they fit inside the garage with all the cars you want to store in there also. On the shelving units you can store items in bins, baskets, buckets so it's easy to find what you are looking for.

Did anyone notice I mentioned shoes as a category when you are sorting the items in your garage? In my many years of organizing I have found that many people remove their shoes before entering the house and many times that means there's a pile of shoes in the garage. A shelving unit designated primarily for shoes might be in order. And if they are taking off their shoes there then they might be removing coats, backpacks, sports equipment bags, etc. too. For all of those items I highly recommend some very sturdy hooks or several for every person.

Lastly don't forget about the storage space above your garage door. This is wasted space in many garages and the perfect place to store out of season items. You can buy an Overhead Garage Storage System at many locations. I would suggest you google that phrase and find a location near you. Some of the items I have seen stored in these systems is Holiday decorations that are big and bulky like lawn ornaments, Christmas trees, etc. Keep in mind your garage is probably not temperature control so please do not store something there that could be damaged by various temperature.

Book References:

Organize Your Garage . . . In No Time

by Barry Iszaak