

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Hibernate Those Seasonal Items In Your Garage

(NAPSA)—It's a lot easier than you think to clear the clutter and organize your garage to fit everything inside—from tools to toys and cars to lawn chairs.

"Garages are often misused as an oversized closet and quickly become a mountain of clutter," said home improvement expert Karl Champley. "An organized garage will open your eyes to space you didn't realize existed and make room for extra storage or carve out space for a pleasant work environment during the winter months."

In order to reclaim valuable real estate in the garage, Karl Champley offers homeowners five easy steps to transform the space:

1. Define Your Goal: What are your organizational goals for the garage? In most cases, you'll want to store more inside as the seasons change. If you are expecting a change in weather, maybe you need to store lawn chairs inside. Or, if winter just means shorter days, maybe you want extra storage for infrequently used items such as camping equipment. Or perhaps you just want to park the car inside again.

2. To Keep or Not to Keep: Determine what you'll stow and what must go. Go through the garage and keep only what you need and donate or throw out the rest. Better yet, hold a garage sale, some of which can generate \$1,000 or more, according to wikihow.com.

3. Elevate What You Can: Can you see your garage floor? Clear the floor of unnecessary clutter and take advantage of the wall space. For example, hang your bike or wheelbarrow on a hook to regain floor space.



Organized garage space is the final frontier when you have to make room for extra storage.

4. Select the Right Products: If you want more, you must explore. Do your homework and find storage components that were created specifically for the garage. Look for sturdy shelves to support heavy items, lockable cabinets for hazardous containers, or storage products that can withstand extreme temperatures of the garage.

5. Get it Done: If You Plan, Then You Can: Be resourceful and use online tools that can help you plan and budget out your garage, like the Blueprint Estimator from Gladiator GarageWorks. From planning layouts to picking out specific products, this unique and easy-to-use tool lets you envision the master plan for your garage.

Whether you're preparing for shorter days, the rainy season or a snowy winter, seasonal storage is an important task no matter where you live or how severe the weather.