

Spring Clean your Garage

The garage is a great place to store infrequently used items and items related to outdoor use such as gardening tools and sporting equipment.

Unfortunately, the garage often becomes the place to store unmade decisions; the cute Halloween decorations your friend gave you that you didn't find a place to use last year, and you're not sure if you will use next year; the dehydrator that you did use when you first got it 5 years ago, but haven't touched for the last 4 years. All the "I might need it someday" items end up in the garage.

It's okay to have some of these things, but if they stop you parking your car in your garage, make it difficult to find the things you need, or worse, have expanded into a storage unit as well, it's time to be honest with yourself and decide whether or not the cost of keeping these items both in financial terms and in energetic terms is worth keeping them.

Imagine you have an empty garage. Decide **RIGHT NOW** what you want to use your garage for. Write it down. Be specific.

Now you can remove everything in your garage that doesn't belong there. Make **TRACK** piles:

Trash - any garbage or recycling (recycle as much as possible)

Return - anything that has a home elsewhere, including your house and gifts for other people

Action - anything that you intend to keep, but needs an action taken on it such as a repair

Charity - items you wish to donate

Keep - the precious, loved and needed items in your life that fit within the categories that you wrote down originally

Use these criteria for what to keep:

- Do I love it?
- Do I need it?
- Have I used it in the last year?
- Is it one of the things I want to use my garage for?

Be wary of shuffling any unmade decisions around. Don't move anything back into your house unless it has a specific purpose and home in your house.

If you need to reclaim a lot of space, be ruthless.

Now put the like things together - gardening equipment, the sporting gear, the tools, and so on. Put the holiday decorations in harder to reach places - you only use them once a year. Put the items you access often - your sporting equipment (I hope I'm right! ;-)) in an accessible spot.

Now enjoy your garage and make sure you clean up at the end of each day, just like you do in your house.