



Does Your Garage Need an Overhaul?

By Sara Caputo, MA

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“Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and leave useless junk in the garage.” -- from ‘Only in America’

Do you remember the time when parking in your garage was not only a good idea, but also very possible? What happened to our garages? The majority of homeowners cannot park their cars in these often dark and scary landfills, much less find anything that is “garage-worthy” of being stored in this space. The garage is usually the last stop for all of the items that we remove from our house, but don’t know what to do with. There is even a term that people in my profession use to describe such situations... **Garagenous Clutteritis!** Here are a few tips to help you maneuver your way through getting your garage organized and get that car back in there where it should be!

A few rules of thumb in the garage:

1. **When in doubt, throw it out** – have a garage sale, give to charity, take it to the dump (as a last resort). You just never know what you might find in your garage and many people have valuable items that they had forgotten about – if this is the case, call an antique store to get an appraisal – you just might be able to make money off of your garage purge!
2. **If you can see it, you can find it** – one of the best methods in the garage is to create storage on the walls. Hooks, racks, cabinets or pegboard are all great ideas. Visit your local Home Depot for a multitude of ideas.
3. **Free your floor** – a basic cornerstone of garage organizing is to free up floor space wherever you can. This allows you to walk through the garage safely, which is a good thing!
4. **Containerize** – once you have sorted and purged all unnecessary items, you now are left with the items you want. Finding proper storage solutions is crucial to keeping like items grouped together, which allows you to find what you need when you are looking for it.
5. **Clean it up** – before you reload everything back into the garage, sweep it out and clean it up. Call a cleaning company if this part is too overwhelming, but make sure that before you put it all away, it gets cleaned.

6. **Call a professional** – Just because you don't enjoy organizing your garage doesn't mean that others don't. Call a professional organizer to help you with the project – these are skilled, professional people that actually ENJOY doing this work!
7. Finally, **keep up the good work**. Schedule a weekend at least once a year to keep things in tip-top shape. Maintenance is always easier than the first major cleanup, so the hardest part is over!

Your garage is often the first view you have when you come home and the last before you leave. If you drive in and out of clutter everyday, your energy will be constantly drained. Instead of swearing that you'll clean it up next weekend or the next weekend... **commit to it and stop putting the energy into what you AREN'T doing!**

About the Author

Sara Caputo, MA is a productivity and organizing consultant who has been streamlining environments and simplifying lives for years through consulting, coaching, and training. Sara is the owner of Radiant Organizing, a professional organizing & consulting company, based in Santa Barbara, California.

She is passionate and dedicated to helping people create more space in their lives for the things they love. Sara's commitment, intuition, and facilitative approach to organizing has helped numerous businesses and individuals pave their way towards living more productive and balanced lives. She believes that by creating more order in our lives and eliminating unnecessary chaos, we can participate more fully in all levels of life!