

# PARK IT!

Functionality is key in garage organization

BY JENNIFER COX  
Special to Postmedia Network

Starting spring with an organized garage can serve your household very well. The garage can be a hub for many things, from a covered place to park your car (if you can even fit it in there), and an area to keep larger items, such as bikes and gardening appliances, to a storage space for tools, seasonal items, holiday decorations, off-sea-

son clothing, excess food and more. Because this space is often used for such an array of storage, it's important that it be well organized so you can make the most out of this area of the home and help streamline certain tasks so you're not wasting time searching for things.

"Most of the garages that we see are being used as a shed in which they throw a lot of stuff," said Roberto Wilson, co-founder of Espace Garage Plus. "It's a personalized problem because no two garages are the same and no two families have the same needs. It's about how you can personalize and custom design a solution that will accommodate all their needs. Often, there's a disconnection between the space and what they want to do with the space, and expectations can be unrealistic. We have to work within the constraints of



Because the garage is often used for storing an array of items, it's important that it be well organized so you can make the most out of the space. - PHOTO BY ESPACE GARAGE PLUS.

the physical room: the three walls as well as the ceiling. Depending on how high the ceiling is, we can sometimes use it for storage purposes."

Probably the most important of the three walls in a garage is the back wall, Wilson said. "Hang on the walls anything you can't store in a cabinet, like shovels and rakes, or put in cabinets for overstock groceries or tools," he suggested. "Sometimes people want a countertop with a sink because they have hobbies like gardening, or perhaps they want to have a workbench. I've also had requests

for a mud bench because they use the garage as a main entrance, and they want to be able to sit and put on boots and hang coats. The garage helps keep the inside of the house clean too."

A big part of maintaining the tidiness of a garage is having proper floors. Putting durable, stain-resistant flooring on top of the dusty cold concrete that is underfoot will help keep up the cleanliness of the overall garage. It can be more cushiony and ergonomic to walk around on, and it repels spills and stains too. "Proper flooring is much easier to clean," Wilson explained.

"Over time, cement can experience wear and tear, and overall, this creates a dusty atmosphere."

In the end, an organized, well-thought-out garage will pay itself back in spades. "On the walls and ceilings, do what makes sense for you," Andrew Wojtczak, president of Garage Outfitters said. "People have different activities and home projects, and you have to learn how to play the Tetris game along the walls. You can use racks above for patio cushions and seasonal decorations. Get things up and off the floor. The value of a garage is to use it the way you want."



Garage walls can be a valuable tool when storing large items - PHOTO BY GARAGE OUTFITTERS



You can personalize your garage storage so that it suits your needs and the available space. - PHOTO BY ESPACE GARAGE PLUS.



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