



# Reclaim Your Garage!

Three Ideas for an Organized Garage



### 1) Throw Out and Donate:

Start with a large garbage container and several boxes for usable items you no longer need. This is the time to be brutal. Yes, you paid more than you should have for your son's skateboard but he hasn't ridden the thing in two years. Donate it. You know that screw driver you accidentally left out in the rain and is now rusted beyond hope? Throw it away. All of those scraps of wood, PVC pieces and hinges you saved "just in case" have been taking up space for five years. Give them to a repurpose building supply store such as Stardust.

### 2) Map It Out:

Once your garage is free of all that clutter, you can reevaluate your space. Dedicate a place for tools, a place sports equipment, a place for lawn maintenance items, etc. Think about the things you use most often and create a space that is easily accessible. If you have high ceilings, overhead storage racks are a great way to store seasonal or bulky items.

### 3) Store It:

After you have your garage mapped out, you can begin to determine what type of storage systems you need. From plastic bins, to shelving systems and cabinets, to wall mounted storage systems and overhead racks, there is a solution to fit your unique requirements.

While many options exist, be sure to invest in *quality* storage systems. Your garage takes abuse on a daily basis and is exposed to harsh environmental conditions. Included in this guide are features to consider when choosing what will work best for you.

## STORAGE SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Cabinets should be mounted off the floor to avoid water damage. This also allows you to easily hose down the floor.
- B. Cabinets should have interior mounted hinges that swing 110 degrees for easier access to contents.
- C. Use shallow drawers for small tools and deep drawers for bulkier items. Invest in full extension runners so your drawers open all the way so you can reach the items in the back.
- D. Use durable wire gridwalls or slatwalls with movable accessories to hang tools and sports equipment. Wooden peg boards will chip and warp over time.
- E. Floor-to-ceiling slatwall provides a clean appearance and keeps large, bulky items off the floor but within easy reach.
- F. Plastic bins are durable and keep items neatly grouped. Be sure your cabinets are deep enough and wide enough to hold large bins.
- G. Consider sliding doors on garage cabinets so you can access your belongings without having to move a parked vehicle.
- H. If possible, install cabinets all the way to the ceiling to maximize storage space.

