ROOM BY ROOM · GARAGE

How to Organize the Garage

How to empty the garage onto the driveway, sort it by category and give everything a place.

WHERE TO START

Pick a dry day. Take everything out onto the driveway so you can see it all.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- [ ] Four boxes or totes
- [ ] Trash bags
- [ ] Broom
- [ ] Rags and a duster
- [ ] Multipurpose cleaning spray
- [ ] Shelving, hooks or bins you already own

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Put the time on your calendar like any other appointment. One room per session is plenty.

The method

1. **Set up four boxes**
   Label them Toss, Donate, Keep and Relocate. Every item goes into one of them, so nothing ends up in a new pile.
2. **Empty it completely**
   Take everything out and set it on a cleared table or counter. You can't organize around things you haven't seen.
3. **Clean before anything goes back**
   Wipe the shelves, drawers and surfaces and sweep the floor while the space is empty.
4. **Group like with like**
   Sort what you're keeping into families. Seeing all of one kind together shows you how much you really have.
5. **Give every family a home**
   What you use most goes closest to hand. Add containers and labels only once you know what stays.
6. **Close the session**
   Take out the trash, put the donations in your car and return every Relocate item to its room before you stop.

In this room

Sort by category

Garden tools, household tools, ladders, sports gear, holiday decor, car supplies, paint and crafts.

Look at your storage

Check the shelves and hooks you already have before buying more.

Heirlooms get their own spot

Family pieces deserve a safe, labeled place, not a corner.

KEEP IT THAT WAY

Put a date on your calendar to clear the garage out each season.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

Take the Donate box straight to the car, so it leaves the garage with you.

YOUR CHECKLIST IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

More tips and photos in the full post: read it here

ROOM BY ROOM · GARAGE · CHECKLIST

The Garage Checklist

STARTED _____ DONE _____

- [ ] Set up four totes or boxes and label them Toss, Donate, Keep and Relocate.
- [ ] Take everything out of your garage and put it in your driveway so you can sort it.
- [ ] Start by sorting everything into categories:
  - [ ] Lawn and gardening equipment
  - [ ] Household tools and equipment
  - [ ] Sports equipment
  - [ ] Car maintenance supplies
  - [ ] Family heirlooms
  - [ ] Laundry and ironing
  - [ ] Ladders and step stools
  - [ ] Holiday decorations
  - [ ] Old paint and craft supplies
- [ ] Look at the storage you already have: shelves, hooks and bins. Do you need more?
- [ ] Give each category its own zone, with what you use most closest to the door.
- [ ] Empty your Toss tote, put your Donate tote in your car trunk and drop it off at your donation center. Rehome everything in the Relocate tote.
- [ ] To keep this area neat and organized, mark your calendar for a date when you'll clear it out each season.

NOTES

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