

MAGAZINE

# Home

The Remodeling and Decorating Resource

## THE JUST RIGHT HOUSE

NOT TOO BIG,  
NOT TOO SMALL

10 MAGICAL  
MAKEOVERS

BEAUTIFUL  
BEDROOM  
FURNITURE

CLEAN & COOL:  
THE ALL-WHITE  
KITCHEN  
MAKES A COMEBACK



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Cover photographed by  
John Coolidge

On the cover

# departments



# simple solutions



## garage tune-up

Tips for organizing one of your home's most cluttered and neglected spaces



**T**he garage is the most overburdened, and poorly utilized, space in the house. In fact, the garage is home to so much stuff—from sports and garden equipment to tools and paper goods purchased in bulk—that there's barely room to park the car. But with a plan to get items off the floor, onto the walls, and into clearly labeled compartments, you can completely transform this room in a weekend. Whether you hire a pro to install a modular storage system or opt to tackle the job yourself with products from a home center, here's how to get started.

### unclutter the area

- Remove everything from the garage, sorting possessions into four categories: discard, donate, relocate, and retain. Wait for a sunny day so you can lay things on the lawn or driveway without the threat of rain.
- Get rid of unwanted, unused, or duplicate items by selling them at a garage sale or donating them to charity. Move whatever you don't plan to store in the garage to another location in the house.
- Organize objects that will remain in the garage into broad categories, such as power tools and yard equipment.



## store in style

■ Maximize space with modular storage. You can purchase everything you need—shelves, cabinets, hooks, pegboards—at a local home center. But for a stylish custom-designed system, we called on Garage Tek, a company that makes interlocking wall panels out of heavy-gauge plastic, as well as the movable cabinets, shelving units, hooks, and racks that clip onto them. Installation takes one to three days. Systems start at \$2,500, with an average price of \$6,000 to \$8,000. The deluxe three-car garage system, shown, costs about \$18,000.

■ Mix open shelves with cabinets to keep everyday essentials in sight while concealing less-useful objects.

■ Create a pulled-together look by simplifying the color scheme. Choose large cabinets in a neutral hue like gray, medium-size units in an accent color such as blue, and small hooks in a bright shade of, say, yellow.

## think easy-access

■ Store the kids' soccer gear in a bin near the trunk of the car; position surplus pantry items in a cabinet near the



door leading into the house. Keep stools and stepladders on the ground under a shelf; stash seldom-used items, like an artificial Christmas tree, on a high shelf.

■ Allow enough floor space along one wall to align garbage cans and recycling bins.

■ Identify the contents of all compartments using a handheld electronic label maker. Get the kids involved; let them draw labels for bins that store their equipment.

## carve out a work space

■ Devote one corner to a task center, as shown at right. Equip it with a desk and attach a hook to the adjoining wall to hang a folding chair.

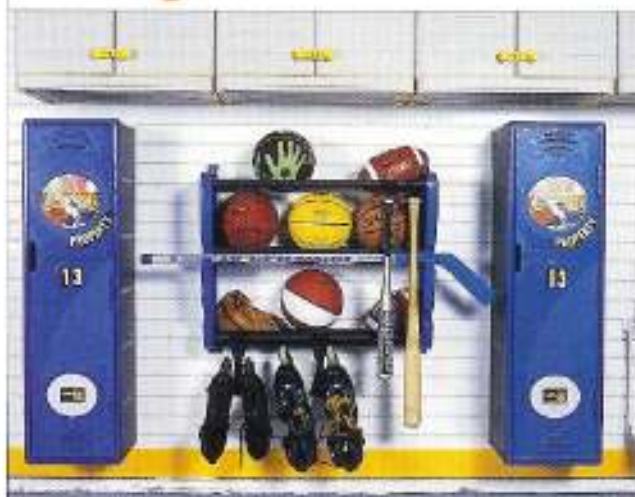
■ Install cabinets above the work surface for easy access to supplies. Lock up hazardous materials.

■ Stow nuts, bolts, and screws in clear containers on shelves hung at eye level.

■ Place tools within arm's reach on wall-mounted hooks.



## design details



**Group sporting equipment** Narrow storage lockers and roomy racks are ideal for housing anything from roller blades and basketballs to hockey sticks and baseball bats.



**Think higher** Increase storage space by utilizing the walls and ceiling. Hang rakes, snow shovels, hoses, brooms, bicycles, and folding chairs on brackets. Suspend kayaks and fishing poles from the ceiling with adjustable hoists.

### Fashion soft surfaces

Soft plastic pads around cement poles protect kids and car doors from getting banged up. Here we used GarageTek's column guards. Textured rubber interlocking floor tiles create a safe place for kids to play. The easy-to-clean flooring resists oil and grease stains.



**Organize shoes** Set aside space for garden boots, sneakers, golf shoes, and soccer cleats so dirt isn't tracked into the house. You'll not only eliminate clutter in hallways and bedrooms but will always know where your shoes are come morning.

