

## **APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS (UNLESS YOU LIVE IN AUSTRALIA WHERE YOU HAVE AUTUMN LEAVES TO LOOK FORWARD TO)**

*APRIL IS ATTACK THE GARAGE MONTH – I’VE CHOSEN APRIL FOR THIS JOB , BECAUSE AS YOU KNOW LIVING IN ALABAMA, IT GETS PRETTY HOT AND IT IS MISERABLE TRYING TO CLEAN OUT AND ORGANIZE A GARAGE AFTER THE HEAT SETS IN.*

As garages often become dumping areas, they seem to become over cluttered easily and nonfunctional to their original purpose of parking a car in them!!!

Enlist all family members for GARAGE DAY!! Allow a full day. A typical garage will take at least 8 hours to totally transform.

Choose a sunny day - a day where there is no likelihood of rain.

OK – lets get started

1. Remove everything from the garage & set the items that you take out in to specific zones outside in the driveway –such as sports equipment, pool gear, tools, BBQ & gardening supplies etc. This way once like items are grouped together you will be able to access just what kind & size storage equipment you will need to purchase.
2. Get rid of anything that is broken or that you no longer use
3. Sweep and hose down the garage floor before you put anything back.
4. Drive your car/cars back in to the garage temporarily to see how much space you actually have to store things around, before you put items back in.

\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER how dust, cobwebs and leaves all love to gather in your garage – so where possible – containerize as much as you can to keep your things clean.

5. Put things back

### ***Tips and Things to Remember***

Make & keep zones for all areas – sports, gardening, paint, car care, etc.

Think vertical when organizing your garage. Usually everything you use or store in your garage can’t fit on the floor space, so as garages usually have high ceilings, think how you can make use of all that space by adding wall hooks and organizers to hold large items such as shovels, rakes etc. Also there are great ceiling hooks and organizers out there that you can store your bicycles, out of season lawn chairs, and other such items.

Pegboards are very inexpensive and are a great way to hang tools on.

Accessibility is the key to an organized workshop, so keep tools and supplies that you most frequently use within easy reach. When it comes to nails, screw, nuts and bolts – store like items together . Baby food jars make great storage containers – any clear containers for easy identification will work.

Large rubbish (sorry garbage!!) bins are great to store baseball bats, hockey sticks, fishing poles and cricket bats (OK, so not too many of you have a cricket bat!!). Use another rubbish bin for all the balls that go along with all these sports.

Store anything in the garage that is used outdoors .

Make shelves, if you don't already have any, by using durable plastic crates for storing items that you will need easy access to such as biking gear, camping gear, car washing supplies etc. Label everything clearly.

Remember not to store things in your garage that are heat sensitive

If you have pre-existing shelving in your garage, store seldom used items and seasonal items in covered storage containers on the highest shelves and label them. If you don't have any shelving, consider installing wire or plastic closet shelving. It is relatively inexpensive and doesn't collect dust like solid shelving does.

You can also buy plastic baskets that will attach to your garage wall space to store like items together in – gardening supplies, sports balls, etc.

Modular cabinets are great for storage in the garage area.

Store any hazardous chemicals, fertilizers, gasoline, oil, paint thinners, and whatnot in locked cabinets out of reach of small children.

Just like any other area of your home, everything in your garage should have a designated home. Once you have created homes and zones, it will be easy to maintain & keep your garage super organized and efficient.

If you can't face doing it yourself – feel free to call me!!

Have fun – and don't forget to reward yourself when you've finished your garage, you deserve it!

*Merri*