

Room to Breathe - Help with your Organizational Skills



Dear Jessica,

My wife will not leave me alone! I happen to know where everything is in the garage and don't feel it needs any work. However, she totally disagrees. How can I appease her?

-Ryan C.

Dear Ryan,

I would say 90% of my clients are in your exact situation. At least you're not alone—I guess! I once heard that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but why don't you just try cleaning out the garage. It will make her happy and you may actually find some things you didn't even know you had.

When in doubt, throw it out! Keep that motto in mind from start to finish. The goal is to create floor space and be able to easily find the items you need, when you need them. Oh, I almost forgot, you may actually want to park your car in the garage.

You'll need to find a designated place for everything while still keeping your tools and sporting goods easily accessible. First, begin with emptying the garage, but as you do that, sort things by category. Separate the tools, sports equipment, lawn equipment, donation items, items to be sold, etc. If there are miscellaneous items that don't belong in the garage, return them to their proper place. Once you have everything separated and removed from the garage it will be much easier to see what systems you should put into place.

As the items return to the garage, keep in mind those used most frequently. You'll want to keep these items handy. Unfortunately, garages usually have a lot of wasted wall and ceiling space. Now there's a great product (www.garage-outfitters.com) that allows you to hang shelving from the ceiling and utilize the space above the floor. Also, I strongly suggest purchasing wall hooks or a tall cabinet with doors for your shovels, brooms, rakes, etc. Something else to consider would be lining your walls with pegboard or groove board. This allows you to hang multiple items and the hooks can be moved as your needs change. Make sure to label all shelves, cabinets, and drawers to prevent you from placing items where they don't belong.

I believe bikes to be one of the most annoying things to store. You can now purchase a bike hoists that allows you to easily store the bikes above the floor. You will not only protect the bikes, but also create great floor space. This area may be great for the lawn mower or snow blower.

The rewards of all of this work will be well worth the hassle. No more nagging and cars actually parked in the garage, what more could you ask for!

Good Luck!

Jessica

Jessica Dolan is the owner of Room To Breathe Home & Office Organizing Solutions. Please submit your questions to Room To Breathe 621 Marjorie Mae Street State College, PA 16803, info@roomtobreathe.us, or (814)360-1063. She looks forward to helping you create some room to breathe!