

TRANSFORM YOUR GARAGE



JUNK KING
AMERICA'S GREENEST JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE



Don't let your garage remain a dumping ground for junk when you could de-clutter and transform it faster than you might expect.

Here in the United States, up to a quarter of people are unhappy with their garage's organization, mainly because they can't find enough space to do anything useful with it. Even though most Americans take great pride in their home's interior, the garage can quickly become the go-to storage option for stuff that doesn't belong inside, but why let that be the case when your garage could be a spare bedroom, a workshop, a gym or even a bar?

This comprehensive guide will tell you everything you need to know to clean out your garage's space and turn it into something useful. Even if you don't intend to store vehicles in your largest sheltered outdoor storage solution, you can turn your garage into a multi-purpose room that may even add some value to your home.

Getting Started – Cleaning Out the Garage

Before you can even start to think about giving your garage a makeover, you need to de-clutter it so that you have space with which to work. Here's how to clean out your garage as quickly as possible.

- Start by taking everything that isn't bolted down out of your garage. Until you've cleared its contents, the task of spring cleaning your garage will seem overwhelming. However, when everything is outside, and you can see an empty garage, you'll find the motivation to get the job done.



- Now that the contents of your garage are outside, you need to start arranging the junk. Organize your belongings into three piles labeled 'Trash,' 'Sell/Donate,' and 'Keep.'
- Find a place to store your 'Trash' and 'Sell/Donate' piles for now, preferably somewhere other than your garage.

Next, we'll look at how to reduce the number of items in your 'Keep' pile even further so that you can maximize your garage's free space for a major transformation.

Analyze Your 'Keep' Pile

When you first arranged your possessions into three piles, you probably put more items than necessary on your 'Keep' pile. The idea is to get rid of as much stuff as possible to completely de-clutter the garage. Here's how to decide what to keep and what to throw away.

- Ask yourself when was the last time you used each of the possessions in your 'Keep' pile.
- If you haven't used something for 12 months or more, you probably no longer need it and can place it in a different pile. Remember that certain items may be seasonal so that you don't throw anything away you'll later need.

- Put anything you've used within the last six to 12 months in a separate pile because it could help you to identify duplicate items, in which case you can throw some of them away.
- Anything you've used within the last six months probably deserves a place either inside your garage, shed or home. Again, watch out for duplicate items so you can minimize the amount of stuff that goes back into the garage.

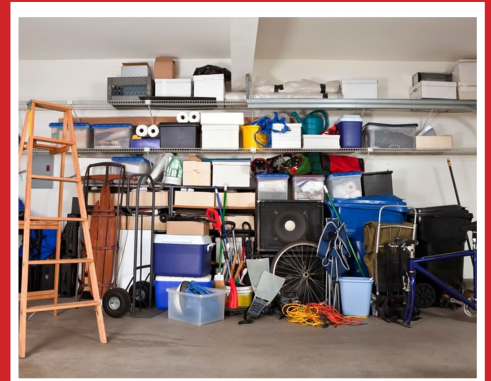
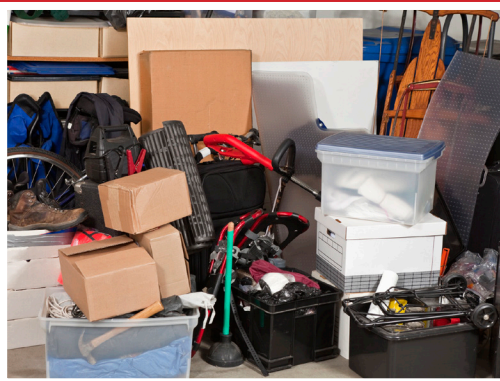
At this point, you should have a surprisingly small of items from a previously clutter-filled garage that you need to keep, which means organizing the stuff comes next.

Keep Your Garage Orderly

You don't want your garage to fill up with junk again right after clearing it out, making it vital to store everything in an orderly fashion. Keep these tips in mind to keep your garage clutter-free:

- Buy slat boards to hang anything from power tools to shovels. Slat boards make efficient use of your garage's wall space, and being able to see everything in clear view will help you return items to their proper home.
- Clearly label storage solutions such as drawers, cabinets and chests to ensure you can find everything quickly and keep things tidy.
- Consider strengthening your garage's roof storage so that you can store seasonal possessions or any other belongings you rarely use out of the way.
- You might want to draft a blueprint of your garage's internal space, especially if you intend to transform a section of it into a gym, workshop or bar.

Now, your garage should look almost new again, but you still have your 'Trash' and 'Sell/Donate' piles to handle.





How to Get Rid of Unwanted Stuff

You need to get rid of your 'Trash' and 'Sell/donate' piles quickly to ensure they don't find their way back into your garage or sustain damage outdoors. Here are a few ways to get rid of old and unwanted possessions from your garage:

- Hold a yard sale with anything you believe could fetch a few dollars. You might be surprised by how much value other people see in things you don't want or no longer need.
- If you live in a remote area with a slim chance of making money from a yard sale, you might consider selling belongings online. eBay and Craigslist are good places to start.
- If you only have a small volume of items to donate, you could keep hold of them until the next collection. However, in the interest of saving space and getting rid of junk quickly, giving items to a local charity shop or an online retrieval service might be a better option.

Even though you might assume the quickest way to dispose of your ‘Trash’ pile is to hire a skip, it’s worth thinking about the different ways you can recycle to prevent items from wrongly ending up in a landfill. Here are a few ideas:

- Try to arrange your items into different boxes for different materials and then take them to the appropriate recycling center.
- Never empty paint cans or adhesives into the bin or down the drain. Hazardous household waste can be a dangerous pollutant, so it’s worth calling the manufacturer to learn how to dispose of such items responsibly.
- You can use tires, old shoes and even chests of drawers to make contemporary garden furnishings and plant pots.

Understandably, you might not have enough free time to follow the steps above, especially when you have ambitions to transform your garage space. The easiest way to get rid of all your old and unwanted possessions and trash is to call waste removalists such as Junk Kings, who will salvage up to 60 percent of what they collect. You might want to book an appointment for the day after you intend to empty your garage’s contents, so that old belongings and waste don’t take up room on your property for any longer than necessary.

How to Transform Your Garage into Something Useful

Now that you can finally see the floor in your garage again, it’s time to do something useful with its space. Of course, garages are primarily designed to accommodate vehicles, but that doesn’t mean you can’t consider other amazing transformation ideas. If your top priority was to de-clutter your garage to make it fit for organized storage, you’ve already achieved your goal, but the following ideas will help you turn its interior into something you’ll use regularly and potentially increase your home’s value in the process.



Convert the garage into a Workshop

If you like to get hands-on with carpentry and crafts, you might want to make your garage practical by turning it into a private workshop. Here are a few things you need to keep in mind make your workshop a reality:

- Make sure the garage is well insulated. You might consider buying an insulated, extra secure door to keep your utility bills down and expensive tools protected.
- You need your workshop to be operable all year, so buy an AC unit to keep you cool in the summer and a couple of portable radiators for the winter.
- Keep your garage's dimensions in mind when purchasing or building workshop equipment such as toolboxes and a worktop. It's wise to make a blueprint design before getting to work to ensure everything will fit comfortably.
- Use smart storage options such as slat walls to hang tools.
- Install durable flooring that can withstand impacts like falling power tools, and make sure it offers plenty of grip.
- Ensure you have sufficient lighting to do your work safely.
- Try to locate your worktop close to plug sockets so that you don't have to use multiple extension cords and adapters to make your workshop a reality.

If you think you'll use your newly-transformed garage regularly, having a workshop will prove to be practical and useful all year-round. However, there are plenty more things you can do with a garage's space if you have no use for power tools.

Create a Home Gym

While most of us understand the need to exercise on a regular basis to stay in shape, we don't always have the time to head to the gym or go jogging before starting work every morning. However, you might be able to fit a workout into your busy schedule if you have a gym inside your garage. Here's how to do it:

- Start by insulating the walls, ceiling and doors so that you don't have to work your electricity extra hard to achieve your desired temperature.
- You might need to install heating to keep you comfortable during the winter months, even though you'll be working up a sweat no matter what the time of year.
- Similarly, you'll need an AC unit to keep you cool when working out in the summer.
- Cover the floor with Floortex™ Coating that offers decent grip to keep you out of harm's way and is durable to prevent impacts from causing damage.



- Make a list and subsequently purchase all the gym equipment you need while keeping your garage's dimensions in mind. It's a good idea to buy items that fold away easily to make efficient use of space when not being used.
- You can use a slat wall to hang anything from small weights to boxing gloves, and you should also consider strengthening your garage's overhead storage so that it can accommodate heavy possessions.
- Make sure you have a radio or stereo for some entertainment while exercising.

A home gym might be just what you need if you have no time to head out five times a week and want to avoid paying expensive membership fees. However, if you're not so interested in working out during your free time and would instead prefer the perfect hangout venue, you might be excited by the idea of turning your garage into something more recreational.

Transform Your Garage into a Bar

Many people would be more excited by this transformation idea than anything else described above, and it's easy to see the appeal in having a home bar. Of course, you might not be able to have drinking buddies inside the house all the time with the family, but you can take refuge in a garage bar that will help you save cash in the long run and make the most of every inch of your home's space. Remember these tips when building a bar in your garage:

- Just as you would have to when constructing a workshop or a gym, you need to ensure your garage is well insulated, has AC units for the summer and heating for the winter to create a bar.
- At the very least, you need to install a small bar, one large fridge for the beverages, and a few seats for friends, family or other guests.

- Think about how you'd like the bar to appear. If you'd love to be the proud owner of a sports bar, you may want to decorate your walls with stylish framed pictures of your heroes, and perhaps hang a few decorative touches such as baseball bats and other sporting paraphernalia.
- If you want your bar to be for more than just friends, you might need to install safe flooring, add a few tables and chairs, and buy a few pumps to give it an authentic feel.
- Think about adding a few entertainment outlets besides a big TV. A darts board, pool table and a poker set should keep guests occupied.

When it comes down to it, you can transform your garage into anything you want, from a home office to a snooker club – depending on your available space. Just ensure the garage is well insulated, bright and has amenities for climate control to make it comfortable, and asides from buying safe and durable flooring, you can have fun styling your garage's interior to reflect your preferences and desires.

Getting Rid of the Junk

Here at Junk Kings, we know that getting rid of all your garage's clutter can be time-consuming and laborious, which is why we'll take the task off your hands for an affordable price. We can retrieve waste at a time that suits you and - more importantly - salvage up to 60 percent of what we collect through donations, recycling and sales, helping you do your part for the environment while being able to focus on more important tasks. Contact us today if you want to upgrade your garage the easy way.





Author

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A big believer in being a team player, Julian supports strong work ethics. Julian helps residential and commercial customers understand the importance of using Junk King's services, educates them on the differences of recycling, donating and disposing of certain debris. Julian provides valuable information for a good junk removal experience. Julian is no stranger to the junk removal business, having spent 3 years as a Junk King driver and 5 years as an operations manager, which taught him the importance of having good communication, customer service and valuable support advice. Julian Torres is a Director of Operations with Junk King Franchise Systems. In this role, Julian looks after franchisees operations, providing all aspects of the operations training, including efficiencies, logistics and customer support. To contact Julian Torres please e-mail JulianTorres@junk-king.com or go to www.Junk-king.com



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