

THE “DO YOU REALLY NEED IT?” CHECKLIST



If you want to completely de-clutter your garage, you will have to decide what still has a purpose, how to dispose of the stuff that you don't want, and what to do with the newly freed-up space.

Here in the United States, most homeowners are relatively proud of their home's organization, but that doesn't apply to the garage for almost a quarter of people. Even though most family residential new-builds feature a garage fit for two or more vehicles, many people end up using the space as a dumping ground for junk. However, just because something doesn't belong inside your home doesn't necessarily mean it should sit gathering dust in the garage.

Most of us know how it feels to open the garage door with the intention of clearing out its contents only to find we lock it back up instantly to avoid such a daunting task. However, your garage provides an excellent level of security for your car, and even if you don't need it for such a purpose, you can transform it into a gym, workshop, spare bedroom or even a bar. This checklist first prescribes a quick method for clearing out your stuff before explaining how to decide whether to keep something or not and finally detailing ways to dispose of the junk.

The Quickest Way to Clear Out the Garage

Before you can start analyzing your stuff to see what's worth keeping, you need to drag everything out of your garage – and that means everything. Then, arrange your possessions into three piles: one for items you'll keep, a second for stuff you'll trash, and a third for things you'll donate or sell. However, this is just round one.

Though the steps in the paragraph above sound simple, it's highly likely you'll put things in the 'keep' pile that you don't need. You can forget about your 'donate/sell' and 'trash' piles for now because it's time to sort out the useful items from the junk in your 'keep' pile.

Analyzing the Items You Think You Need

Depending on how much clutter was in your garage, your 'keep' pile may be the largest of all three. However, the aim of the game is to put as few possessions back into your garage as possible, which means minimizing the number of items in your 'keep' pile as much as possible. First, ask yourself whether you've used a belonging in the last 12 months, and then take the following steps:

If the answer to the question is 'no,' you probably don't need to keep it. Decide whether it needs adding to the trash or donate/sell pile. However, make sure you don't throw anything seasonal away that you might only use every once a year or so.

If you used something six to 12 months ago, you need to consider whether you'll use it again carefully. It might have been a one-off purchase for a task you won't need to tackle in future.

Anything that you've used in the last six months may deserve a place back in your garage or indoors. However, try to arrange everything you think you need to keep into categories to see if there are any duplicate items, in which case you won't need both.

Analyze Your Trash Pile

At this point, you should have made your 'keep' pile as small as possible, and you can proceed to start putting things back in your garage in an orderly fashion. Unfortunately, your work isn't over yet. Now, you need to analyze the 'trash' pile to see what can go into a waste bin, what needs recycling, and what you could repurpose.

Anything that falls under the category of Hazardous Household Waste shouldn't be thrown down the drain or into a waste bin. These items include paints (even cans with barely anything inside), adhesives, chemicals, oils, lubricants, and batteries. Call the manufacturer to find out how to dispose of such items responsibly, or let a waste retrieval company do that hard work for you.



For now, keeping anything that has a hollow center. Things like tires, shoes and even old drawers can make attractive and practical garden ornaments.

Don't automatically throw away anything made from wood. If you have some carpentry knowledge, you could transform them into new items of furniture.

Repurposing Items that Seem Like Junk

Just because something's broken doesn't mean you can't fix or repurpose it. Plus, repurposing items usually means they won't find their way back into your garage. Here are a few ideas:

In the previous section, we recommended putting anything with a hollow center aside. Many inventive homeowners have made plant pots from old shoes, tires cut in half and even old paint cans.

That chest of drawers you were about to throw out could make a very attractive multi-layered mini garden.

Use your handyman skills to turn damaged crates and the wood from broken furniture into something new for your home.

Deciding What to Do with What's Left

Now that you've put your analytical skills to the test and decided what you need, which items could be resurrected and, finally, which old possessions you'll never use again, it's time to think about how to get rid of the stuff that doesn't deserve a place in your garage.



You can make some money by selling items from your 'donate/sell' pile by holding a yard sale, and you'd be surprised by how much value somebody else sees in possessions you think are useless. Alternatively, consider selling old belongings on eBay or Craigslist.

If you have anything that you think isn't worth selling because its value is too small, consider donating it to somebody who needs it. You could take unwanted but still usable possessions to charity shops, wait for the next collection, or contact a company that can collect such items from your home.

Make sure to recycle as much as possible from your 'trash' pile. In the US, half of recyclable junk ends up in landfills, and we need to cut this down for the sake of the environment.

All the tasks listed above can be time-consuming, and you may have little energy left after making your brain analyze so much. Fortunately, there is an easier way.

Call the Professionals at Junk Kings

At Junk Kings, we know you'll feel much happier with your property after de-cluttering the garage, but we also know disposing of all the waste can be a laborious task. If you want to make things easy, you can arrange for us to retrieve your unwanted stuff at a time that's convenient for you, and we can salvage up to 60 percent of what we collect. We can deal with just about any type of waste, so contact us today to find out how we can help you.

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