Mr. Handyman to the rescue in your garage

Organizing pros say only about 30 percent of us keep our cars in the garage. Why? Too much stuff. The garage is often a neglected, messy space. But with a little organization and a few DIY projects, you can turn your garage into a clean, neat and organized space.

If rolling up your sleeves and tackling this project seems daunting, here are some tips to get you started. If you want help planning the layout and installing organization systems, we can give you a hand, said Wayne Owczarzak, owner of Mr. Handyman, a family-owned and operated professional handyman company.

Now is the time to get your garage in tip-top shape.

Sort
Make four piles: keep, donate, sell, and toss

Categorize
Group like items together so they're easy to find. Typical categories include recycling, sports and recreational equipment, camping gear, automotive, seasonal decor, garden gear and tools. Store items you use together such as gardening tools and lawn chemicals close together.

Climbing the walls
Turn part or most of your wall into storage space to hold everything from tools to your garden hose and ladder. Do it yourself with shelf brackets and an eight-foot-long board for shelving or purchase wall shelving. Install racks for shovels, rakes and brooms. Use pegboard, which can be cut to size and painted to customize the look.

If you purchase ready-made shelving units or cabinets, make sure they're raised on legs so that you can clean the floor beneath them easily.

Wall mounted workbench
For the occasional DIYer, a wall-mount, fold-down workbench offers a sturdy surface and tucks out of the way when not in use.

Up, up and away
Make good use of your garage space and get things off the floor by installing industrial racks from ceiling joints or purchasing a ceiling storage system. This is a great way to store seldom-used holiday decorations and other seasonal items. You can also hang bikes, kayaks and golf clubs to free up more floor space.

Repurpose
The little compartments in a hanging shoe rack are perfect for the garage. Garden shoes, gloves, cords and other miscellaneous items will now have a home. Spray paint an old file cabinet and turn into storage space for garden tools and other supplies.

No cardboard boxes
Don't store your belongings in cardboard boxes. The contents will be vulnerable to insects and pests that can damage them. Instead, choose waterproof, pest-proof plastic bins.

Mud room
Turn a corner of your garage into a mud room near the entry. Hang coats, backpacks and umbrellas and store muddy or snowy boots. Baskets can hold hats and scarves. Add a bench or cubbies.

Epoxy the floor
That dingy slab of concrete will look even drabber once you've cleaned up. An epoxy floor coating is an easy to clean and attractive finish that is tough, durable and chemical and stain resistant. Oil, brake fluids, anti-freeze and gasoline can easily be wiped up.