

# Garage Organization Checklist

A zone-based plan to declutter and organize your garage from floor to ceiling.

## Empty and Assess

- Pick a clear, dry day and move everything onto the driveway
- Sweep the floor and knock down cobwebs and dust
- Sort all items into keep, donate, sell, and toss piles
- Dispose of old paint, chemicals, and batteries at a drop-off site  
Never put hazardous waste in regular trash.
- Sketch a simple floor plan marking each planned zone

## Create Functional Zones

- Map a tools zone near the workbench or main wall
- Set up a lawn and garden zone for soil, pots, and yard tools
- Assign an automotive zone for oil, fluids, and car care
- Group sports and recreation gear in one accessible spot
- Reserve a corner for seasonal and bulk storage  
Keep current-season gear at the front.

## Install Wall Storage

- Mount a pegboard or slat wall for frequently used hand tools
- Add wall hooks for rakes, brooms, and ladders
- Hang bikes on wall brackets to clear the floor
- Install adjustable shelving along an unused wall
- Outline tool shapes on the pegboard so each has a home

## Add Overhead and Shelf Storage

- Install ceiling-mounted racks for light, bulky items
- Store seasonal decorations in labeled overhead bins
- Keep heavy items on low shelves and light items up high  
This prevents tipping and strain when lifting.
- Use clear bins so contents are visible at a glance
- Leave overhead clearance clear of the garage door track

## Manage Tools and Seasonal Gear

- Sort hardware into labeled drawers or stackable bins
- Store power tools in cases or on a dedicated shelf
- Coil and hang extension cords and hoses on reels
- Rotate winter and summer gear to the front by season
- Label every bin clearly on more than one side

## Safety and Maintenance

- Keep a fire extinguisher mounted in an easy-to-reach spot
- Store flammable liquids in a ventilated, locked cabinet
- Keep walkways clear and the floor free of trip hazards
- Install adequate lighting over work and storage areas

- Schedule a seasonal reset to maintain your zones  
Fifteen minutes each season prevents big cleanouts.