

Here's the secret to organizing your garage: Use the walls — and ceiling



Too much stuff in the garage? Maybe you need to climb the walls: This "Monkey Bars" garage storage system is from AAA Garage Storage Solutions. (AAA Garage Storage Solutions)

By Bonnie McCarthy

It's the Bermuda Triangle of organization, the place household clutter goes to die: The garage.

If your garage is anything like ours, it's jammed with plastic storage bins that you purchased with great enthusiasm. Sadly, stuffing junk into boxes only gets us so far, according to organizational experts. "Moving into a larger house isn't as easy as it used to be," says Steve Artinian, of Los Angeles-based [Garage Envy](#), which specializes in garage storage solutions, "so people are maximizing their space and garages are being used to do that."

First step, of course, is weeding out the stuff we no longer want, need, or use and organizing the rest. (No easy task.) Then, the experts say, we need to go beyond the bins. We need solutions that allow us to reclaim precious square footage, create functional systems and maximize our space.

And one easy way to do that is to use the walls and even the ceilings.

So if you really want some extra room for that home gym/craft studio/game room/shoe closet/man cave you've been dreaming about, here is some inspiration for taming the clutter in your garage once and for all:

UP, UP AND AWAY



This motorized platform by Power Rax has a 500 lb. capacity for overhead storage. (Jacob Harr / Power Rax)

“The greatest value in the garage is overhead storage,” says Gus Gougas, president of Los Angeles-based OrganizIT!, which offers industrial racks that hang from ceiling joist and add loads of extra storage space that can be utilized for specialized storage such as seasonal items, camping gear and luggage, or the “things you touch two or three times a year ... it’s not for stuff you want to access every day.” Here are some ideas for doing just that, so shop around and find the products that work for your particular needs:

[Power Rax](#)’ motorized 4 foot by 8 foot ceiling platform has a 500-pound capacity for overhead storage, starting at \$1,399. Bikes can be hoisted up to the ceiling and stored overhead with this [motorized bike lift](#), also from Power Rax, \$399. There’s also a kayaks and bikes combo option, \$419.



CREATING A WORKSPACE



Collapsible shelving. (AAA Garage Storage Solutions)

One of the many benefits of whipping the garage into shape? A clutter-free workspace for woodworking, gardening, crafting and beyond. Traditional workbenches are always popular. Another option: Collapsible shelving. The Monkey Bars line from [AAA Garage Storage Solutions](#) folds flat to the wall when not in use, \$70 per running foot with a minimum installation of 4 feet.

FINALLY, THE FLOOR SHOW



Do your homework: You want something that will bond to concrete well. (OrganizIT!)

Once all clutter is gone and you can see the concrete floor again, you might even have some energy left over to polish that up as well.

Gougas suggests that you choose carefully: Applying regular “paint on concrete will fail within months.” You want something that will bond to the concrete, he said. OrganizIT!’s most popular floor treatment is [Liquid Granite](#) epoxy, which is applied with a topcoat after diamond-headed grinders strip the floor. “It’s like sanding a piece of wood before you paint it,” he said. Prices vary.