



Homeowner Brings Order to *Her* Universe

GETTING ORGANIZED

In 1950, 2-stall garages were very rare in the United States and 53% of homes didn't even have a single garage. Among families who did possess one, garages were generally a husband's domain. Today, nearly all new homes include a 2-stall garage and 25% of homebuyers want at least a 3-car garage. What's more, women are taking an active role in planning and using garage space. There's more to this increased interest than families owning more than one car. Front and center is the need for extra storage.

As the before and after photos show, making the most of the space you have can increase your

garage's storage capacity while dramatically improving its appearance.

The owner of this 40-year-old home used the garage to store Christmas decorations, memorabilia, chemicals, bikes, sporting goods and lawn and gardening items. Longing for more efficiency and order, she contacted Todd Burns, a **GarageTek**® franchisee based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Todd met the homeowner in her garage, and consulted with her regarding her family's individual storage needs. They chose components from a catalog of 75 different accessories. Because the garage was tucked under the home, the 8'6" ceiling was too low to accommodate **GarageTek's** overhead storage rack, which is normally suspended above the garage door. It was therefore necessary to maximize storage



before



before

potential on each wall. Later that day, Todd emailed a computer-generated drawing to the homeowner – which was enthusiastically approved.

A major cleaning was slated before installation. Todd advised the homeowner to rent a U-haul and a dumpster. Things the family no longer needed went in the dumpster. Items that needed to come back into the garage were stored in the U-haul, which could be locked overnight.

Once the excess clutter was eliminated, Todd's crew arrived. Because the garage's walls were comprised of cinder blocks, they framed out the walls with 2 x 4's before attaching the TekPanel® tongue and groove wall system, which provide the base for all the system's other components. Next, a floating

floor system made of plastic tiles was put in. Finally, shelves, racks and cabinets were installed according to the agreed upon plan.

At last, the family's belongings were returned to the garage, now organized by zones: a Christmas zone; a memorabilia zone; a sports zone; a drop zone to plug in cell phones and hang keys; a safety area with a first aid kit and fire extinguisher; chemical storage; a spot for lawn chairs, a cooler and other picnic items; and an area for shovels, rakes, brooms and gardening equipment. A handy tool area includes a workbench on casters, which easily wheels out to the driveway for car maintenance.

The homeowner could not be more thrilled with her bright, cheery, tidy garage! ■



To learn more about the garage system featured in this article, you can visit www.GarageTek.com

Advantages of GarageTek® Storage Systems

- Items are stored in a secure manner, creating a safer garage.
- Belongings can be hidden in closed, lockable cabinets – reducing the risk of theft.
- Because nothing is bolted to the wall, components can be rearranged in minutes.
- Accessories are easy to add later, allowing the system to grow as needed.
- The floating floor is made up of open grid tiles which provide a dry surface to walk on, while allowing water to drain below.
- All components are waterproof, pest proof and low maintenance.
- With the exception of the walls, storage components can be taken with you if you move.
- The system comes with a transferable 10 year warranty.