

storage solutions



chaos + clutter = stress + disharmony

Great storage is one way to put your home and your life in order. Clutter and chaos in your living spaces cause anxiety and disharmony, sometimes even at a subconscious level. When we have everything in its allocated space we feel in control of our home and in control of our life - we know what we own and where to find it.

With well designed storage systems in your home, your possessions will be under your control and not creating unwanted mess. This does not mean that you have to hide all your treasures away; they can have a special place to be on display and enjoyed.

All homes have possessions, but it is how, when and where we use them that shapes how we store them. Items that are used frequently must be easy to access, such as car keys.



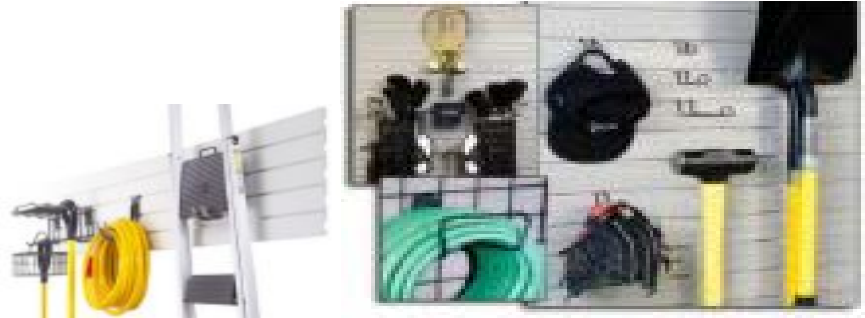
built-in mobile seasonal

When thinking about storage you need to decide if you want built-in or freestanding systems. Built in cabinetry is obviously part of the house, while freestanding units can be taken with you if you relocate to another home.

The main deciding factor is to determine what actually needs to be stored, and where (which room) the items should be kept. For example most people store their clothes and shoes near their bedroom or ensuite bathroom which is where they dress and groom themselves.

Other questions you may ask yourself is if there are items used on a seasonal basis, such as swimming and boating gear in the summer, and sports and wet-weather gear in the winter. If this is the case the items being used for the current season can be made accessible while the others are stored away on less accessible shelves.

garage box room



The garage often becomes the 'dumping ground' for items that cannot be stored in the house, but with some thought this can be made into a very useful storage area without clutter, especially for sports and hobby equipment.

Sometimes we need storage for things we don't look at or use very often, such as souvenirs, old books, photographs, party decorations, etc but we still want to keep them in a safe place for when we do want to see or use them.

A 'box room' is a great storage idea - a small internal room in a house with floor to ceiling open shelving on each wall. All sorts of items can be stored here, easily located and retrieved when needed, and quickly returned to their 'spot' when finished with.



sort - keep sell donate discard

Keeping things in order and easily accessible means they are kept in good condition so they last longer. When deciding which items need to be stored, it is a good time to decide if any of your possessions can be disposed of. Very often we hoard things that will never be used again, so sort them out and sell or donate them to someone who will have a use for them. Dispose unusable items immediately.

Space is considered a luxury by many homeowners, and the smaller your home or apartment is the more important it is to have well designed storage.

Large and bulky items such as suitcases or spare bedding should be a priority when planning storage. Consider storing the spare pillow and duvets inside suitcases.



safety access reach lift

The safety and ease of access is another important factor. Higher cupboards and shelves should not be too deep so a person of normal height is able to see into the back of the shelf. If this is not possible, store taller items at the back and the lower objects at the front of the shelf, so they can be more easily identified and retrieved.

Objects used less frequently can be stored on high shelves, such as spare bedding which is lightweight and will not injure a person if it accidentally falls. A stepladder is another way to access high storage shelves - make sure it is safe and sturdy!

Heavier objects are better stored at ground level and can be easily retrieved if they are in large containers on wheels. Or heavy items stored at waist-height enable you to lift them using all muscles of your body which will prevent back strain.



freestanding modular adjustable

Freestanding furniture - bookcases, filing cabinets and lockers or old wardrobes, chests and dressers can be found in second hand stores and make for great storage. They can go with you if you are on the move, but they do usually take up more space.

Modular systems are great in that they can be added to as the need arises or budget allows. They may come in kitset form and can be assembled at home or are designed and custom-made for your particular space, such as modular wardrobe systems.

Adjustable shelving comes in all shapes and sizes and various materials and combinations such as metal, timber, glass or melamine board.

Plastic or cardboard boxes, wire or wicker baskets make great containers for storing all sorts of items.



concealed or exposed

If you wish to conceal your stored items, consider purchasing full height cupboard units with adjustable shelving inside, or large mobile storage units on wheels that can be lined up against a wall or used as a room divider in a large, open space.

If you have a lot of items and tools to store in a garage, these can be hidden away in cupboard units so that the area looks tidy when you drive into it. This may be important in a shared garage of an apartment block, both for appearance and security.

There are lots of other clever storage accessories available today - interchange hanging systems for tools, bikes, ladders, sports gear etc to keep these items off the garage floor.



kitchen + bathroom organisers

In the kitchen there are all sorts of organisers for use within cupboards and drawers - baskets and racks for crockery and glassware, drawer liners for cutlery and utensils and baskets to containerise pantry items of all shapes and sizes.

There are magnetic wall-racks for sharp knives to keep them safe and out of reach of small children. There are wall-hung holders for foil and food wrap, paper towel dispensers and containers for cooking utensils.

For the bathroom there are mobile trolleys and storage units for cosmetics, towel racks and under basin storage baskets. Ensure cleaning products and first aid/medications are stored out of the reach of youngsters. There are also lever suction towel hooks, soap holders and shower caddies available for bathrooms.



bedrooms wardrobes shoes

For the bedroom there is a great selection of integrated wardrobe systems for shoes, hanging clothing, folded clothing and clothing accessories such as handbags, ties, belts and jewellery. Having a place for everything in the wardrobe or dressing room makes it much easier to find what you want to wear.

Storage in children's rooms can be fun - colourful plastic boxes, cubes and containers are great and help to keep toys and books tidy.

Plus there are all sorts of small and large containers available for hobbies and crafts - clever products that will keep your projects tidy and easy to find.

laundry clothes racks



The laundry is another place where additional storage can be installed, perhaps floor to ceiling above and around the washing machine and dryer for all sorts of items. Pull out drawers or wire baskets are great for storing clean linen, cleaning products, vases, garden accessories, crafts items etc.

The iron and ironing board can fold away into a cupboard for easy access, and clever clothes racks and airers can fold up against the wall or into a cupboard when not in use.

The Supertub Workstation provides storage drawers under the tub as well as additional bench space, and hanging baskets above for cleaners.



living spaces

For the living room there are lots of shelving systems and cabinets to choose from for storing books, displaying ornaments or housing multi-media equipment.

In addition there are boxes, chests and cubes that can double up as side tables or coffee tables with drawers or ottomans with lids to stow items away.

Preloved wooden boxes, tins, baskets or old suitcases can add to the character of the room as well as store games, puzzles or photo albums.



accessible cavity storage

When space is limited, it is worth looking around to find extra little places where things can be stored out of sight.

Under the bed - there are plastic bins on wheels which can be stored under the bed which is ideal for spare blankets, bulky jerseys, coats etc. during the summer months.

Under the stairs or up in the attic - check to see if there is any space that can be accessed by opening up a wall or ceiling and installing a cupboard or hatch cover so storage can be accessed. Fold-away stairs are available for attic storage and can be stowed up into the roof cavity when not in use.

Toekick - this is the cavity between the floor and the bottom shelf of cupboards, such as in the kitchen. Foldaway step ladders or flat objects can be tucked away here.

compiled by

- Colourwaves - Jill Carroll