

# Storage areas are often overlooked

Almost every home has some unused area that can, with a little thought, be utilized for storage.

Take for instance the area in the garage over the hood of your car. By building a simple floor-standing or hanging shelf, you can create a good storage area for garden tools and supplies.

Another area in many garages that is not usually utilized is the area under the pitch of the roof. Many people have built very successful storage lofts in their garages and created a sizeable amount of usable square footage.

However, if you do build something yourself be sure to use good solid construction procedures as it is very easy for a great amount of weight to accumulate on a shelf of

this type. You certainly wouldn't want it to collapse on the hood of the car!

Inside the house there are many corners that lend themselves to conversion to storage areas. In two-storey houses there is often an area under the sloping roof that can be opened up to offer storage for bulky items that are not used on a day-to-day basis. In most cases there is no access to these areas and you will have to cut a small door through from the bedroom.

Another thing to remember is that in most cases the bedroom walls are insulated and the area is unheated.

Another area in most houses that is wasted is the area under the basement stairs. Although this area is usually only up to 6' high and slopes

down to the basement floor it can again provide several valuable square feet of storage area.

This area can be insulated and made into an excellent wine cellar. Because the area is usually situated on an outside wall the insulation will exclude the heat from the basement and keep the area at an even, low temperature that is so important in the storage of wine.

For those who have young children this is an excellent toy storage area with the low headroom no problem to the little people. Built-in shelves and bins could almost make the area neat!

Another area that is often overlooked is the space over washers, dryers and chest freezers. This is an ideal spot to hang stan-

dard kitchen cupboard upper units that can be bought at building supply outlets and are easily installed. They offer ideal storage areas for hobby and craft items. Over the washer the soaps and cleaning products are easily accessible.

Storage area is where you find it. A tour of your home with this in mind may turn up more area than you thought possible.

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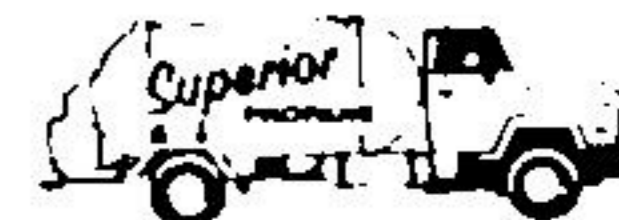
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