

# How to create and use storage space more wisely in your home

Is the interior of your house beginning to look more like the setting for a rummage sale than a home?

Do you feel like you're living in a constant state of "Clutter chaos" as you desperately seek out new nooks and crannies in which to store your ever-growing number of belongings?

And what about the exterior of your home? Does it look like a jumble of confusion, simply because you've run out of space to store your outdoor items? Do you leave your garden furniture outdoors all winter because you have no other place to store it?

If the above descriptions sound all too familiar, then it may be time to look at creating some new storage space — or using the space you already have more effectively.

**WHERE TO START:** Obviously, it's easier to make more efficient use of your existing stor-

age space than to install new cupboards, closets or shelves.

There are many storage organizing kits available on the market today to help you do this. Inexpensive cardboard boxes that fit neatly under your bed are a great option for storing items like extra bedding or out-of-season clothing.

**STORAGE BINS:** Plastic-coated storage bins are also an alternative for getting more efficient storage out of your existing closets and cupboards.

These stackable units can be easily assembled into the required space and are usually reasonably priced.

Rolling or sliding storage bins are also particularly handy in the kitchen or pantry to help maximize storage space in awkward places.

Most hardware stores and building centres

carry a selection of storage units. You may also want to consult a company that specializes in shelving and storage to have a system custom designed for you.

**PRIORITIZE NEEDS:** When searching for new storage space, it's important to consider how often you'll be using the items you're storing and prioritize your needs accordingly. If they're occasional-use items, you won't necessarily want them in the way of things you use more frequently.

If you're thinking of creating new space, look at areas of prime activity where existing wall space is not used to its full potential.

For instance, if you're a bookworm or a music lover, you can create or buy pre-fabricated wall units to display your collections. Either way, you can tailor these units to suit your taste, decor and budget.

**BATHROOM:** The bathroom is a prime example of an area where you can make a difference. If you have an older home with a small medicine cabinet and a reasonable amount of wall space, consider having a much larger unit installed. In addition, you can add extra shelves where wall space permits.

If you think that your basement or attic is already filled to capacity, take a closer look. You may be surprised. Closets and cupboards can be created under a stairwell with a little know-how. You can customize your storage space to the angle of your staircase to make sure you get the maximum use out of the area.

However, before embarking on such a project, you may want to consult the appropriate experts at your local building supply centre — or hire a contractor if you're not particularly handy.

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This quality property is located in a sought after area of town and updated with newer plumbing, gas heat, 2 additions, roof, windows, etc.  
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Executive country home featuring 4 bedrooms, inlaw apt., natural gas, cable, formal living & dining rooms. Call James or Joe. **\$299,000**

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Great family home in great neighbourhood. An all brick, four bedroom house, three washrooms, big family room with fireplace and walkout to deck. Solid oak doors & trim, bright eat-in kitchen overlooking family room. Finished rec. room & office plus central air conditioning. **Call Listing Broker Moe Miljour.**

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**THE TIME IS RIGHT**

With as little as 5% downpayment, you could build equity for your future while living in this comfortable, upgraded townhome. Today's low interest rates can help you enjoy the hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen with walkout to fenced patio, central air and finished lower level. It's your future—think about it.

Call Mike  
**ONLY \$116,900**

**COUNTRY CONVENIENCE**

All you desire can be found in this stone and brick bungalow ideally located close to town. An oak kitchen, 2 fireplaces, Florida room, main floor laundry, finished lower level & central air and vac, make this a comfortable family home. Call Mike.....**\$255,900**

**FAMILY PLANNING**

Over 1900 square feet of finished living space will allow your family to grow in comfort. You'll love the hardwood floors in the living room and dining room, the huge eat-in kitchen and the main floor family room with fireplace and walkout to deck. Central air, air cleaner, sprinkler system and a quiet location complete this great package. Call Mike.....**NOW \$179,900**

**TRULY SPECIAL**

If you have an appreciation of the finer things in life you will recognize the quality materials chosen by this wood worker during the construction of this fine home. Open concept living room with woodstove and vaulted ceilings, huge pine kitchen both with walkouts to serene wooded lot, Warm and inviting. You'll love the uniqueness. Call Mike.....**\$249,900**

**ALL BRICK AND HARDWOOD FLOORS**

Today's lower interest rates can make your move up more affordable. You'll love the all brick exterior, hardwood floors, elegant French doors and a main floor family room with fireplace and walkout. Additional upgrades include hi-efficiency furnace, central air and central vacuum. Call Mike.....**\$222,900**

**WOODED SECLUSION**

The setting you've dreamed of with the classic home you've always wanted. Nine foot main level ceilings complement the formal living room with fireplace and adjacent library, formal dining room and the cozy family room. The four generous bedrooms include a master bedroom with separate dressing area and ensuite privileges. Endless upgrades and conveniences located just east of town. Call Mike.....**\$324,900**

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