

Get ready for a clutter-free fall and winter

As the cold weather approaches and the days get shorter, Canadians start to spend more time indoors and get-togethers move from patios to living rooms. As a result, living spaces can become cluttered and less appealing. In order to keep living spaces comfortable and manageable in the colder seasons, it's time to rethink seasonal storage.

RONA experts say we tend to underestimate spaces in our homes. Reorganizing will optimize the potential of different rooms, especially before the winter arrives. Here are three ways to maximize space in your home for the colder months:

Patio furniture

If you don't have enough space to store your patio furniture indoors, a cover will protect your furniture as the temperature drops. Some covers are made to cover the entire patio set and some are tailored for individual items. Make sure to tie them tightly so that they do not get blown off by strong bitter winds. Finally, cushions and fabrics should be completely dry before storing them, preferably in your basement, garage or shed.

With some items, you may have to ask yourself: should this be stored? Could it be stored somewhere closer to where I need it? For example, you may want to keep your BBQ close to the house, so you can enjoy year-round barbequing. Just make sure to protect it with a good cover. And since it gets dark earlier in the fall and winter, why not add some exterior lights to improve your cooking experience?

Garage storage

A garage is one of the most versatile storage spaces available in a home. Start by determining how much space is needed for your vehicle, and then optimize the rest. Vertical storage modules are ideal since they allow you to maximize the vertical space that is typically unused. Peg boards and hooks are versatile and ideal for keeping items such as shovels and hoses separate.

Seasonal sports equipment can be organized in wall-mounted shelves and non-perishable goods in bins and plastic totes to keep them safe from insects and other animals. For large or unusually shaped items that cannot be set into the wall, consider under-ceiling or suspended storage.

Shed

If you don't have space in your basement or a garage to improve your home storage capacities, building a shed could be a practical investment. To determine what size of shed you need, evalu-

ate what items you want to store. RONA experts can help you chose the shed that will fit your needs, or even help you build a customized one.

If you already have a shed in your backyard, think about a system that will help you find what you need quickly, no matter the season. Pegboards, hooks, shelves and storage boxes can be handy to get organized.

Use these tips to simplify your life and enjoy the upcoming seasons.

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