



# Driving change



**A** Make the most of your garage with storage **B** Keeping a garage tidy can be a challenge

Be ruthless with the clutter, install an effective wall storage system and reclaim your garage, writes **Robyn Willis**

Not so long ago, the garage was the sort of place that could have had a sign saying, "Enter at your own risk". A largely male domain, it was frequently home to strange jars of screws, nails and widgets with lids attached to the ceiling for more efficient storage and an odd assortment of timber and machine parts scattered around.

You knocked before entering and you never went in barefoot.

How things have changed.

These days, the garage is less often the engine room of the house and more likely a place to store the car between services.

And increasingly, it is home to all manner of things that have spilled over from the house.

## Tough love

Linda Eagleton, a professional organiser and founder of Creative Surrounds, says the garage is one of the toughest areas to sort through, next to the home office.

"It is one of the more time-consuming rooms to sort out because there is such a big volume of things to get through," Linda says.

Because it is separate to the house, it can become a forgotten zone.

"The garage ends up being the catch-all for the house because it is a place people don't see," she says.

"It's the only place where you can store bulky items when there is no room in your house."

Unfortunately, it can become overloaded and unsafe. Over time, whatever is stored can also become inaccessible.

## Lost property

Linda says along with the usual suspects such as luggage and the family Christmas tree, it is not unusual to find boxes that have not been opened for years.

"It's one of those places where people put things they haven't needed for years," she says.

"They feel it is an endless space but sometimes it is time to let go of things such as inherited furniture. If you loved it, it would be in the house."

The key to any long-term storage solution is to pull everything out and classify the contents into groups.

Things no longer required should be sold, donated or thrown out.

Once you have whittled the contents down to what you want to keep, it's time to start working out your options.

Linda is a big fan of specialist garage storage supplier GarageSmart.

## Wonder wall

Group general manager of GarageSmart, Hague Shier, says demand is growing for effective garage storage that gets items off the floor and on to the wall.

"The floor is so inefficient once you start stacking things in there," Hague says.

"People often say we are not going to get everything off the floor on