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## NEAT SPACES EZINE SPRING 2007

Brought to you by Wendy Hollick, Professional Organizer



I'm pleased to be heading up National Organizing Week activities on behalf of the Halton-Peel Chapter of Professional Organizers in Canada (POC). Since 2002, the first week of May has been declared National Organizing Week and POC has partnered with a national charity as part of this annual event. This year my colleagues and I will volunteer our professional services to help Habitat for Humanity Canada in Halton and Hamilton.

### THIS MONTH: GET ORGANIZED FOR SPRING!

90% of organizing is getting out of your own way. Make today the day you decide to get organized. Tell someone about it.

You don't have to stop everything to get organized, you just have to START.

For many people, the garage is the clutter graveyard, a seemingly handy place to chuck that broken toaster over last year's throw rugs and dozens of half-empty cans of paint. Add a snow blower, some lawn furniture, bikes, toys and a few power tools, it's no wonder that so many of us can't even fit our cars in there any more!

Good news - there is a lot more space in there than you realize.

Start by removing all items from your garage.

Sort into groups: toss, give away, recycle, put away, sell and keep.

#### Storage Solutions

- Think vertical - wall grids, hooks, magnet bars, and peg boards allow items to be stored up off the floor in an organized way.
- Look up - overhead shelving suspended from the garage ceiling makes an excellent out-of-the-way place for storage of items used less often - clear and labelled bins work best.
- How's that floor? dingy, grimy, stained? A fresh coat of paint or floor sealant can freshen up any garage.
- Roll out the barrel - barrels make excellent organizers for housing hockey sticks, tools and more.



#### Organizing the Trash

- Pick your spot, make it user friendly, close to a door.
- Use square containers rather than round as they will fit flush against a wall and take up less space.
- Think height - tall blue bins over short bins hold more without taking up more precious floor space.

**TIP OF THE MONTH: REDUCE**

- Think before you buy
- How long will it last?
- Can it be re used?
- Don't buy disposable products
- Take along a reusable bag when you shop (store in the car so you won't leave it behind)
- Buy in bulk
- Buy in refillable containers
- Repair instead of replace
- If we're not reusing it, we're losing it

Reuse costs less than recycling so reuse it first.

*Source: ReUse Centre*

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Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"  
~Robin Williams

I hope you enjoyed this issue of the **NEAT SPACES EZINE**. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues.

If there are topics you would like to read about in future issues, please let me know!

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