

your home

"YOUR HOME" ROTATES WITH "YOUR HEALTH" AND "YOUR RELATIONSHIPS"

De-clutter your garage

If you've got a two-car garage but can't even store your Mini Cooper inside, it's time to tackle that space with an organizational overhaul. Melissa Bice, 34, gave us a tour of her place-for-everything-and-everything-in-its-place storage system, and the experts from Absolute Garage, a local company that specializes in organizational systems, dished on how to de-junk. — **Brianne Sanchez**

Tips for taking your garage from overwhelming to organized

1. Organize stuff into piles.

"Start by grouping all your like items together," said Absolute Garage owner Todd Walker. Put lawn care items, sports equipment and toys into separate piles.

2. Trash the trash.

Next, determine what duplicates you have to get rid of, and trash the stuff that's broken. Walker recommends taking old lighting fixtures and other unused items to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore (2341 Second Ave.). Sports equipment can go to Goodwill or Play it Again Sports (9980 Swanson Boulevard, Clive).

3. Make a plan for storage.

Now that you know what you need to store, Walker recommends assessing the garage space and determining what should be hung, what should be placed on shelves, and what should go in cabinets or in an overhead, loft-like storage unit.

4. Make like Home Depot.

While determining where everything should go, try to keep similar items together so your garage feels more like a department store than a flea market. This way, things are easy to find and put away. Walker recommends getting a lockable



Melissa Bice used Absolute Garage to help organize her space and coat her floors with an epoxy.
Brianne Sanchez/Juice

cabinet for hazardous materials if there are young children in the household, and putting toys far away from the shovels, rakes and lawn mower.

5. Consider an epoxy floor coating.

Walker said the biggest trend he's seen this year is a demand for coated floors. "It sure makes the garage a lot easier to clean, which in turn makes the house cleaner," he said. (Walker estimated the cost for coating a two-car garage to be around \$1,500).

Who did it: Melissa Bice and her husband, James, hired Absolute Garage three years

Absolute Garage

Find it: 2679 100th St.,
Urbandale

Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Monday through Thursday;
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 10
a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday;
closed Sunday

Info: 254-0040,
absolutegarage.net

ago to re-claim their Norwalk home's garages. With four kids under the age of 10, the system helps them hang multiple sets of roller blades, sports equipment,

bikes, and even Barbie cars. Plus, there's a special tool bench with cabinets for hazardous products and even one for James' golf clubs.

"They came out and looked (at our garage) and gave us a design plan," Melissa said. "All it involved for us was moving everything out, writing a check and putting everything back in."

The Bices even had Absolute Garage come back to organize their closets and create a system in their mud room, too. "The customer service with these guys is fantastic," Bice said.