



Mermaid Consulting Services



JUNE 2020 BLOG

MERMAID HOME ORGANIZATION

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JUNE 2020: Organizing for Summer (aka Spirituality in the Garage)

I must admit... I could not wait to talk about summer (sorry May!). It's my favorite season, and now more than ever, there are so many reasons to be outside.

We live in a Cape Cod on Virginia's Rappahannock River. Surrounded by water and trees, there is a wide variety of recreational fun to be had. Cape Cods tend to have proportional garages, 1.5 cars wide. That doesn't really allow for a lot of space for the water and hiking gear. Especially when our garage became the home gym; now more than ever, we have a safe space to exercise.

Our garage connects to the house, which means it is the portal from our home life to the outside world. Although we have a lovely front porch space, everyone goes through the garage. The grill station is at the garage's edge, the cocktail hours that never quite make it inside, and the pass through from cocooning to spreading our wings.

When we remodeled the kitchen, the original cabinets filled up an entire wall of the garage. A wish come true... more storage space that can tuck all of the things away. Instead of dishes and serveware, they hold our outdoor party goods, gardening and flower arrangement tools, home improvement and cleaning gadgets, boating and oyster equipment, beach towels, and grill gear. And no one sees them!



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We also added a set of school lockers that serve as an outdoor mudroom concept and plenty of pegboard and hook slatboard that helps get everything off the ground except for the gym equipment and potting corner.

Due to the pandemic, we added a sanitation station full of wipes, gloves, masks, and a pair of scissors that cut open the delivery boxes. We have a clear space where all the items coming into the house, including clothing, totes, and groceries can be housed for 2-3 days.

Once you think you have the garage figured out, another life transition happens and reminds you this is a sacred, fluid space between you and the world. It's not the prettiest of spaces, but it can be used in many interested ways. We do yoga there which makes it a spiritual place too (we will visit the spiritual side of organizing throughout this month).

Full confession: we may be a bit garage obsessed. We added a new garage to hold the big stuff: cars, golf carts and kayaks. We had to get specific about the purpose of each garage and its activities, so we are not crossing over items, leaving them in the other garage, and creating a new organization problem... *which garage is it in?* We had to come up with two separate systems and stay true to the purpose of each.

In the time of COVID-19, the garage is a safer space to organize with good sun exposure and a nice breezy airflow. Here are some favorite Mermaid tips that help in organizing the garage for summer:

1. Centralize the sunscreen, bug spray, and first aid kit and keep them in a cool dark space. We love [caddies](#) that become mobile between garage to the backyard or poolside.
2. Organize an emergency beach bag. That's right, sometimes you just need to be in the water, washing away the day, rejuvenating your spirit. Keep a clean towel, sunscreen, protective eyewear, and some tunes at arm's reach in a water-resistant tote. We cannot say enough wonderful things about [Bogg Bags](#).
3. Garages can be fun too. We labeled our garage cabinets with [blackboard stickers](#) and chalk markers. Instead of obvious label titles, we thought of pop culture references that tip us off to what is in each cabinet.
4. The same rules apply to garage organizing as to the rooms. Determine what zones you need, assign zones, move all like items to their zones and organize into the space, adjust if certain zones need more or less space, then repurpose



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what may not be a neat fit into those zones, *or ask yourself* do I need it? Why is it an outlier?

5. Use containers in interesting ways. Is a bucket just a bucket or plastic garden pot just a pot? Our friends at HGTV share some [great ideas](#) of what can be repurposed.
6. Express yourself. A garage doesn't have to feel like a garage. There are so many flooring, shelving, and lighting options these days, have fun! We added wood flooring to a "feature" wall to make the garage feel more spa like as we do our downward dogs. The lockers and door were spray painted cobalt blue. Have extra artwork? Why store it away when it can be enjoyed in this space. Adding a bit fun and whimsy is a great way to welcome you back from the world. We will share garage pictures on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) throughout this month.
7. In addition to the whimsy, make sure you follow some [practical rules](#) too (oops! we used cabinets, but they are organized!)

So far so organized and ready for summer!

Namaste.