



Get your storage shed organized for a productive summer

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With just a few simple steps, you can organize your shed for a productive summer.
Martha Stewart Living photo

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When you open your storage building (a.k.a. "the shed"), do you see rusty tools, masses of yard and garden equipment, and heaps, bottles and bags of disorganized hoses, weed killer, and fertilizer?

If you're going to anything done around the outside of the house and in the yard this season, it's time to organize your storage space.

By organizing thoroughly just once, you'll be able to straighten your storage space in the future in what will seem like no time at all:

1. Unload everything from the shed, placing similar items into separate piles. You'll see quickly what is beyond repair and should be thrown away, what is worth keeping and should be repaired or replaced, and what is ready to be organized and stored. Duplicates may be sold or donated unless you're absolutely positive that having two pruning shears is a necessity or keeping all of those extra roofing shingles will come in handy someday (not!).
2. When you've finished sorting everything that you removed from the shed, you can now label your piles of "keepers": Garden Tools & Supplies, Outdoor Decorations, Pet Supplies, Pool Equipment & Supplies, Power Tools, Sports Equipment, Toys.
3. While it's still empty, give the shed a thorough cleaning, and take some time to make repairs where necessary.
4. As you return your "keepers" to the newly cleaned shed, keep like items together, and use the following tips to create appropriate storage that will help you put items back where they belong after you and your family use them (selected tips from [HubPages](#)):
 - Create a simple storage container out of scrap pieces of wood for keeping sporting goods or camping equipment all in one place. For extra convenience, add wheels to the bottom of the container to make loading and unloading the car quick and easy.
 - Bins and storage containers are best when they're stackable and placed together in one area. If possible, always use clear containers that can be labeled so you don't have to look through each one to find what you need.
 - Using inexpensive rain gutters made from either aluminum or vinyl, you can store many different items that would otherwise clutter up the rest of the shed. Mount the gutters high on the walls of the shed, cut to the desired lengths, and use to keep pipes, light and thin wood strips, molding, or other longer, thin items in one place.
 - If you have the space, a large workbench serves double duty as a place to work, and also for keeping your most commonly used items nearby. Make use of the space underneath the bench for storing boxes and containers near the work area without cluttering up its surface.
 - For smaller garden sheds, install a table that folds down for use, and stores flush against the shed wall when not in use. This type of table is great when you need a surface to use occasionally, such as when replanting flowers or making small repairs, but don't have the necessary space for a permanent work area.

Share your own tips here for organizing your shed.