



How to organize your basement – pick a purpose

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It's your choice: organize your basement for storage or as an additional living space
Toronto Home Improvement

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For many people, the basement is either a catch-all for all the things you aren't using around the living areas of the house, or it's another part of your home's living space, intended to use every day for sleeping, eating, and playing. To be successful organizing your basement, first pick a purpose for its use, then get started organizing it to satisfy one of these two purposes.

BASEMENT AS STORAGE AREA

If your basement is a mess, and you simply want to get it organized as a **storage area** where you can find items you need, watch the [video](#) showing six quick-and-easy steps to get it done:

1. Set up three boxes: Garbage, Donations, and "I'll think about it later."
2. Sort through everything in your basement, and be ruthless with your possessions. The worst that could happen is that you get rid of something that you buy again later.
3. Take everything you are keeping, and decide how and where to store it in your basement. If you have sorted well, you will find that you now have plenty of space to store everything.
4. If needed, install shelving to store household supplies, and use milk crates or clear plastic bins to keep like items together. Label everything so that it is easy to find. Basements always run the risk of flooding, so invest in waterproof plastic bins to protect your possessions from moisture.
5. Install pegboard and hooks on which to hang tools cooking utensils, toys, and other items you want to find quickly and easily. Don't store anything in your basement that may be damaged by moisture: books, photos, good wood furniture, and fabrics.
6. Throw out the items in your Garbage box, and give away the items in your Donations box. Store the "I'll think about it later" box in a place where you can find it to make decisions at another time.

BASEMENT AS LIVING SPACE

If you want a basement **makeover**, using your space for more than just storage, visit HGTV for inspiration:

- Read about a basement transformation from "[dreary to dreamy](#)."
- See a slideshow that illustrates how you can create "[basement space for everyone](#)."
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