



Get organized by using your stuff unusually: garden tools

September 3rd, 2010 5:17 am ET
Vicki Hancock, Get Organized Examiner

An old hand rake becomes a conversation piece as a rack for wine glasses!
Photo: olivet.squarespace.com

Many of us hang on to old garden tools and supplies long past their intended usefulness, even buying new tools and keeping the old ("in case I need a spare"). If you've just cleaned out your garage or shed and just can't discard some of those tools, here are some ideas to put them to good use in unusual ways:

- Those coils of garden hose that can't hold water anymore can be cut into shorter lengths to make bucket handles, grips for tools, protective sheaths for the chains on a child's swing set, and even a tool hanger (slit a length of hose lengthwise and attach it to the shed wall for a handle-gripping holder).
- Clean up an old hand rake to create a mail sorter for your home office or a wine glass hanger for a mini-bar. In your closet, use a rake to sort and hang ties, belts, scarves, or long necklaces.
- Keep a large planter or flowerpot by your wood fireplace to hold wood or fire starter. If you're a knitter or a crafter, place balls of yarn in small flowerpots to pull out the lengths you need without tangling.
- Use clay or ceramic flowerpots unusually by laying one or more on their sides in your garden and arranging plantings to appear as if they're growing out of the pots. Or, break the pots into large pieces to use for abstract decorations in your garden.
- Lay an old ladder on the spot in your garden where you plan to grow herbs or other plants you would like to keep separate. Paint an old wooden ladder a bright color, anchor it at an angle to a nearby fence, and use it as a trellis for vines or as a display for colorful potted plants.

Find additional ideas at [This Old House](#) and [Country Living](#), and click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.