

Clear your shed

Things getting on top of you? Clean out the garage or shed and restore order to your life, writes CAROL POSENER

Most garages are crammed with so much stuff there's no room for the car. When clutter piles up, the house can become home to items that belong in the garage.

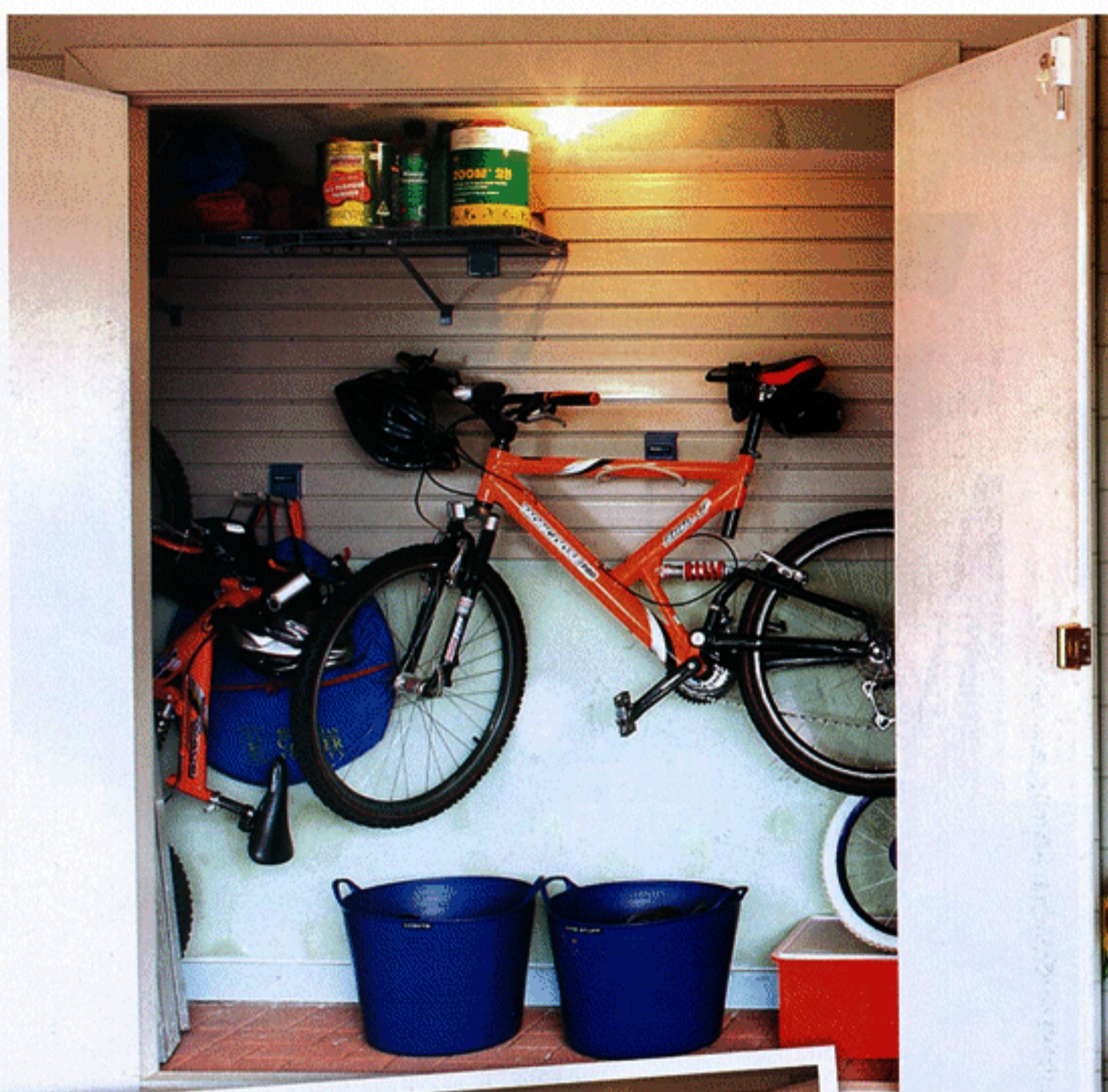
When Chris and Karen Jack renovated their Federation home 14 months ago, they decided to ditch the garage concept and build a sturdy carport with storage at the back to keep the space at the front of the house open and free-flowing.

The storage area is the width of a two-car garage and about 1m deep. Built to store equipment traditionally kept in the garage — tools, bikes, sports and camping equipment — the area needed some serious organisation.

Chris, an environmental consultant, and Karen, a training manager in the restaurant industry, have two children — Alexander, 11, and Eliza, 8 — and two kittens, Shadow and Tiger. They love their surroundings to be organised.

"It's Chris's dream to have all his home maintenance tools, equipment and gardening supplies organised so everything has a home," says Karen.

First, we emptied the space and cleaned out the storage area. Chris made decisions about what to keep and after much fine-tuning we were left with three bikes, two scooters, three helmets, garden equipment such as rakes, spades, shovels, picks, leaf blower, lawn mower, golf balls, soccer balls, a football, a blow-up swimming pool, petrol cans, paint cans, car maintenance accessories, two trestle tables, a stepladder, fishing gear, an Esky and smaller tools and toolboxes.



Top: Shed storage made easy. Left: Chris Jack and his original clutter.

We bought different-sized storage bins, crates and tubs to store items for regular use, such as children's sports equipment, portable outdoor lighting and gardening equipment. We chose smaller, clear polypropylene boxes to organise nails, screws, nuts and bolts, and clip-on storage boxes for picture hooks, electrical components and light globes.

We installed pegboard on one half of the back wall to hold frequently used tools. On the other half of the wall, we installed a patented panelling system complete with hooks to support electrical leads, bikes, large gardening equipment such as a

whipper-snipper and leaf blower and baskets to hold car-cleaning equipment, scooters and camping equipment.

The two trestle tables had been stored lengthwise on the floor, taking up a lot of space. Now we stood them up behind the central hinges of the doors to the storage area, making use of the height space. This freed up the floor space so the lawn mower could have a dedicated spot, at the front of the shed for easy access.

We used a tall cane basket to store garden tools that were too heavy to hang.

"It's just fabulous," says Chris. "I can't believe you managed to fit it all in and we can see everything!"



WHAT WE USED
 Bunnings Warehouse:
 Masonite pegboard, \$35.50
 per 1.116sqm, Hobby Box,
 \$2.64, Fischer Stor-Pak
 \$12.00, Zenith Pegboard
 hooks, \$12.95, Storage
 Crate, \$19.19, Storage
 Crate, \$24.77, TuffTubbs
 storage, \$11.47.
 GarageSmart®: Smartwall
 panels, baskets, shelves
 and hooks, prices on
 application (our fitout cost
 approx \$1300).



GARAGE MAKEOVER: 12 SIMPLE RULES

- Dedicate one day to sorting out your garage once and for all. Then it's done and you'll reap the rewards. Two hands are better than one, so enlist the help of a family member or friend to speed up the job.
- Take everything out and decide what you absolutely need and discard or donate the rest.
- Analyse wall spaces and identify the areas where you could install pegboard for everyday tools and a wall storage system for storing larger items off the floor.
- Use all available wall space if necessary to get things out of drawers and cupboards and off the floor so you can see everything at a glance. Then you can grab it, use it and place it back where it belongs with ease.
- Group like items together: sort and separate nails, screws, nuts and bolts, light globes, picture hooks, drill pins, electrical components and store in a range of storage containers to suit the contents.
- Pegboard can be cut to size at hardware stores. Ensure pegs are secured so they don't move when removing tools. Dab on some silicon at the back of the peg if needed.
- Buy stackable crates with lids to keep items dust free and to utilise wall height.
- Label crates and bins to avoid confusion and to create a specific home for everything.
- Mount dangerous and sharp tools at the top of the pegboard or wall system so they stay out of reach of little children.
- Store chemicals in lockable cupboards or on top shelves.
- Paint cans and sample pots can be stored in crates under the house or in ceiling storage to keep them out of reach, as they're not used frequently.
- Mount tools such as a range of screwdrivers, garden secateurs and different-sized pliers on pegboard at waist height for easy and quick retrieval.

Storage solution

Tidy up your shed with these smart products



Howard's Storage World
Space Logic Garage System,
from \$24.95.



OMAR galvanised shelf, from IKEA, \$59.



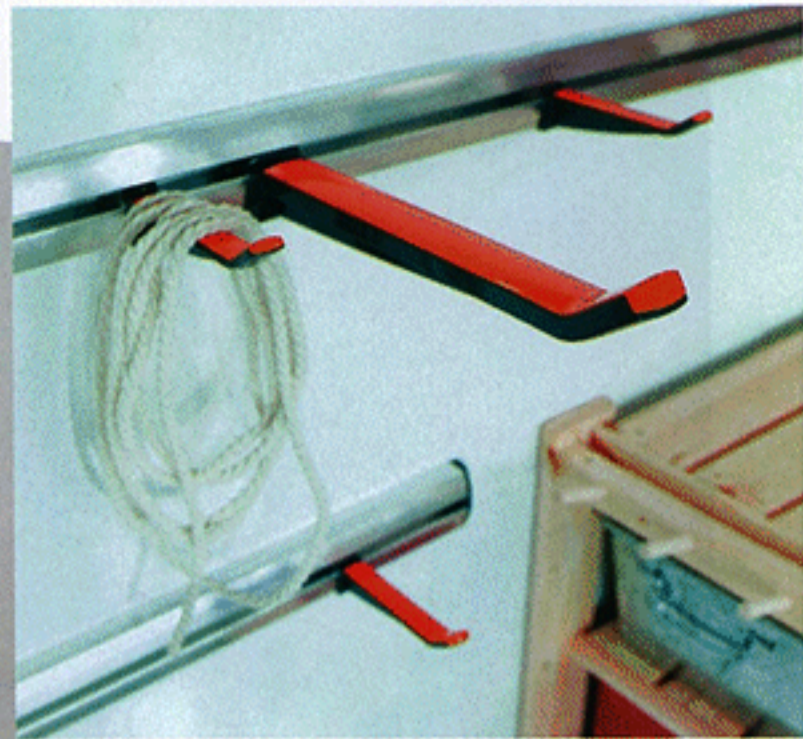
IVAR drawer unit,
from IKEA, \$149.

KNODD galvanised
bin, from IKEA, \$49.

STOCKISTS
IKEA: Sydney 02 8002 0400
www.ikea.com.au
Aero Designs 03 9429 4910
www.aerodesigns.com.au
Howard's Storage World
1300 666 616 www.hsw.com.au



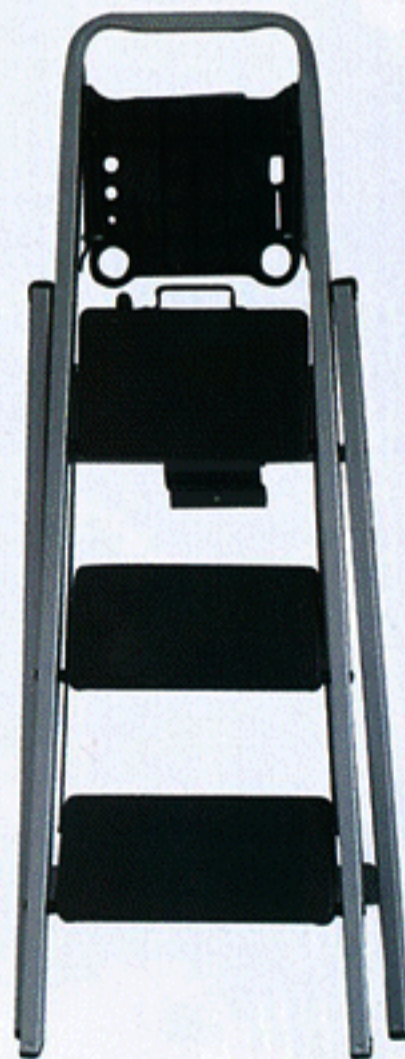
Howard's Storage World Ultra Hold wall mount, \$29.95.



HENKE hook, from
IKEA, \$5.



Aero Designs filing frame, \$150.



Hang your wheelbarrows and
ladders with Howard's Storage
World Interchange Hanging
System, from \$11.95.