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# Tips for cleaning out that messy space in your home

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Nate Berkus and Organizing Maniac, June Saruwatari discuss organizing on the set of The Nate Berkus Show.

*The Nate Berkus Show*

Whether it's as big as your garage or as small as a kitchen drawer, we all have messy, unorganized places in our home that make us want to tear our hair out. Chances are, if you're like most people, you shut the door and walk away because the thought of organizing the mess is completely overwhelming. If you can relate at all, this article is for you.

**On a recent episode of The Nate Berkus Show**, Nate invited self-proclaimed **Organizing Maniac June Saruwatari** to come on and help one family (while teaching the rest of his viewers) how to tackle that mess and come out the other end a winner!!

Here's the strategy she used to help Sherry and Joel clean out their garage:

- 1 Clean the space completely. Yes, this means taking out every little box and

paper and screw and getting the space down to the original four walls and floor.

- 2 As you're removing the items, organize them into categories or zones.
- 3 Transform the space into a beautiful extension of your home and you're more likely to take care of it and maintain the organized version.
- 4 Use a pegboard along the wall, painted in your favorite color. Use it to hang all of your tools, gardening items, brooms, mop, etc... from. That way, everything has a place and it's much easier to put it back in the same place over and over again.
- 5 Hang up artwork or have your children create something to hang on the wall as a focal point.

Now, for this couple (and their two kids) it took one entire day and ten people to get the job done. Here are final tidbits of advice she had for us regular folk.

- 1 Make a commitment to get it done (from start to completely finished) and try to get rid of 95% of the stuff while you're at it. Trash things that are no longer useable. Have a garage sale and/or donate whatever is left over.
- 2 Set aside 12 hours to do it. Obviously, then it becomes imperative that this begins Saturday morning so you have Sunday to either finish or recover.
- 3 Enlist as many friends and family as you possibly can to help you get it done.
- 4 Once you've moved everything out, decided whether to "keep it" or "ditch it" you must make homes for what's left in the space.

*Watch the video to see the stunning before and after of the Messiest Garage makeover.*

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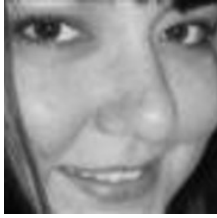
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