

# Clear out clutter to free up garage

BY MART YHOPE, CALGARY HERALD MAY 8, 2010

It's time to open the door to the garage to let in some fresh air and toss out some of the stuff collecting dust and spiderwebs over the winter.

Get off the couch and do some spring cleaning. Pick a nice weekend to start the purge.

Give the heave-ho to that unwanted junk -- and at the same time, clean up the furniture and yard accessories for the upcoming summer.

Getting rid of clutter can "relieve stress and prepare you for a season of enjoyment" in the coming months," says Mike Thorne, president of JustJunk.com, a franchise chain active in Ontario.

"I don't know about stress relief, but it's just nice to make some room ... This time of the year is historically the time to remove obstacles and clutter from around the home.

"Each year, our clients ask what other Canadians are throwing out and if they have the most unique items."

As a means of helping Canadians in their quest to reorganize their lives, "we have pulled together a list of the top seven removal requests," says Thorne:

-Renovation debris -- After a winter of sitting around looking at the same four walls, the time has come for a change. Tear out all of your carpet, drywall or wood panelling for a fresh change of pace.

-Odds and ends from the garage -- Spring or summer is the perfect time to spend some spare time in your garage, whether you are fixing up that old car or building something new for the backyard, you're going to need some extra space.

-Old pool supplies -- Your backyard pool offers you a vacation every weekend and every day after work, so naturally you want to take care of it.

-Old sports equipment -- This season brings with it plenty of sports: baseball, golf, soccer and even indoor hockey. Summer is the perfect time to get rid of all the old sports equipment that the kids have grown out of.

-Yard waste -- Spending more time in the yard means first taking the time to make it look and feel more beautiful and inviting.

-Old furniture -- Getting ready for summer company means getting rid of the old and uncomfortable sofa bed that no one wants to sleep on. It also can mean replacing those worn-out lawn chairs that never went with the patio table in the first place.