

HOME DECOR & MORE



How to Increase Storage in Tight Spaces

Cozy, quaint homes attract many home buyers and renters. Be it a cottage-style house or a studio apartment, smaller living spaces often involve getting creative with storage.

People live in a smaller homes for a variety of reasons. Some choose to live in a smaller home so they can be right in the thick of things in a city or urban center. Others scale back on living space in an effort to save money. But storage space in small quarters is often at a premium, and thinking creatively is a necessity to keep the home tidy and items out of view.

Rainy or chilly days are the perfect times to tackle indoor organization projects. When the outdoors isn't beckoning, you can devote all of your attention to addressing storage issues in your home. To begin, take inventory of what you have, going through your possessions and determining what can stay and what can go. Part with anything you haven't used in quite some time.

The next step is to sort items and get organized. Then you can find a place for everything. For example, if you have a dozen bath towels but only one sauce pot, you will need to find more room for linens than kitchen cookware. You may need to borrow space from one area of the home to give to another area. The following are some additional tips to increase space in an otherwise cramped home.

* Add shelves. Increase cabinet and closet space by adding shelves into them. This may double or even triple the amount of usable space, especially if you customize the shelving to fit storage containers you use to store everything from shoes to



When you think creatively, you can maximize storage space even in a small home.

- * Opt for dual-purpose furniture. Benches with lids that lift up and sofas that convert into guest beds are just a few of the many ways you can keep a small home neat and increase storage space. An ottoman is a great place to store extra blankets and linens, while a trunk or crate with a sturdy top can be used in lieu of a traditional coffee table to keep books or board games.
- * Think vertically. When floor space is at a premium, you may need to look up for storage. Frequently used

pots and pans can be hung from a decorative rack in your kitchen. Use magnets on jars to store a spice rack on the wall near the stove. Racks above cabinets or on doors can be used to store everything from shoes to jewelry to toiletries. Shelving in children's rooms can store lesser used toys away from the floor. Empty walls are valuable real estate in a small home, and tall bookshelves can house a number of different things.

- * Take advantage of oddly shaped crevices. If you have space under a stair-

case or a spot by a dormer or in an attic eave, use the space to store items. You may need to get creative, such as adding a door and small closet into the staircase, but such spaces make practical storage areas and add character to a home.

- * Use see-through storage containers. Many people find that plastic storage bins are neater and more stackable than boxes. See-through bins enable you to quickly find items so that you are not searching around the house for lost items and creating a bigger mess along the way. Clear storage containers work in the refrigerator, too. You can more easily spot leftovers, and uniform stacking containers free up more room for bulkier items.
- * Make use of space beneath your bed. There likely is ample room to store more things than just dust bunnies beneath your bed. A bed frame with built-in drawers is the perfect place to keep bed linens and out-of-season clothes. Beds can be raised on blocks to create more space underneath

for storing rolling plastic containers and even seldom-used suitcases.

- * Opt for an armoire. Armoires are not exclusive to bedrooms. Armoires can be used in dining spaces or in dens to store items out of sight. An armoire can be used when retrofitted with a pull-out shelf as a laptop desk, storing all office items behind closed doors when not needed.
- * Improve storage in the bathroom. Try to choose a van-

ity that has under-the-sink storage so you will have a place to store some toiletries. Home improvement centers sell cabinets and etagers that can be placed above the toilet tank as a storage space for bathroom items. In the shower, hang a second tension-loaded shower curtain rod on the inside of the shower enclosure that can be used to hold bags of kids bath toys and other toiletries, keeping them off the tub ledges.

\$77,038 Community Park Funding Approved

By Maurice Rees

Colchester Council received an update on the community park funding program which indicated four groups have been approved for a funding support totaling \$77,038. The last previous report to council was in September 2016.

The four approved applications include:

Lower Onslow Community Centre will receive \$30,000, pending other funding, for a \$60,000 project for a natural

play space for the Lower Onslow Preschool and the community beside the community centre. The Town of Truro requested and received approval for an allotment of \$30,000 representing 12% of the project cost of \$253,284.05 to expand the Truro Skate Park

The Brookfield Elementary Home and School are working on a Phase 2 project valued at \$60,776.60 for development of a natural, accessible playground which will include: disc swing, accessible surfac-

ing natural climbing structures, art panel and musical instruments. A grant of \$15,000.00 for 25% of costs were approved pending other funding and confirmation of tender costs. Le Jardin d'Enfants were approved for \$2,038.38 (50% of project cost) for perimeter fencing for a new outdoor play space to be developed for the preschool and the community (part of the Ecole acadienne building).

April Permits up \$976,000

By Maurice Rees

A total of 44 building permits were issued for the month of April according to the building activity report circulated to Colchester council at its monthly meeting on May 25th. Total value was \$4,585,300 compared to \$3,609,000 for the same pe-

riod in 2016.

The increase of \$976,000 is due primarily to three permits valued at \$1,845,000 for farm buildings, while none were issued for April 2016. Commercial permits were down \$930,000 with one commercial permit valued at \$5,000 compared to 6 permits total-

ing \$934,000 in April 2016. A total of six renewal permits for \$277,500 were issued this year compared to three valued at \$36,500 in April 2016. Permits in other categories remained about the same as April 2016 with the exception of multiple residential which recorded \$220,000 in 2016, but none for this April.

The three farm buildings

were Curtis & Ann Millen, Little Dyke Road, \$300,000; \$375,000 for Lower Harmony Road and Scenic Valley Farm Limited, Middle Stewiacke topping the list at \$1.5-Million.

For the calendar year permits totaling \$20,301,400 have been issued compared with \$11,554,000 in 2016. It's an increase of 75%.

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