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Creative Storage Solutions

By Rachel Paxton

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by: **Rachel Paxton**

When the things in your home start crowding in around you and you're short on cash, it's time to come up with some creative storage solutions. Don't be afraid to think "out of the box". You're the only one who has to know where everything is stored.

– A cedar chest can be used for blanket storage. I don't have enough cupboard space for blankets, and they all fit nicely in the chest. The chest also doubles as a coffee table in the living room. The blankets are easily accessible and can easily be folded up and put away at a moment's notice.

– My daughter and I found an old apple crate (fruit labels still attached) with a shelf built into it at a yard sale for about \$5. The crate is a great storage area for books and doubles as a nightstand.

– An old china cupboard displays dishes I didn't want to hide away in the kitchen cupboards and also provides extra storage space for linens and silverware. This cabinet was found neglected in grandma's basement and was brought back to life with a little sanding and new paint. It is now a beautiful addition to our dining room.

– Large plastic containers are great for organizing kids' rooms. My daughter had a lot of "stuff" stashed all over her room, and we gathered it all up and put all her arts and crafts supplies in one big container, and her writing materials in another. Homework is organized in a plastic container set up as a file organizer, organized by subject.

– Look outside for creative storage ideas. We had to clean out our spare bedroom and had no idea where to put our camping equipment. We don't have a garage or a shed, so an old camper shell turned out to be the perfect solution. All our camping gear fit into it with room to spare, freeing up more room in the house.

Creative Storage Solutions

- Organize seasonal decorations in large plastic containers. Plastic wears better than cardboard and if you buy similarly sized containers, they will stack easily and be easy to store.
- A long flat underbed–type plastic storage container is great for organizing holiday gift wrap. With the wrapping paper I store scissors, tape, gift bags, ribbon, bows, and extra cards. This container fits perfectly under one of our living room couches and all my gift–giving supplies are together in one place!
- Shop for furniture that doubles as extra storage space. We bought a cabinet for my husband's 55 gallon aquarium and the entire bottom part of the cabinet is open for approximately six feet of additional storage space.

Rachel Paxton is a freelance writer and mom who is the author of *What's for Dinner?*, an e–cookbook containing more than 250 quick easy dinner ideas. For recipes, tips to organize your home, home decorating, crafts, and more, visit [Creative Homemaking](#) at

Email:

Say It Like You Mean It!

By Howard Theriot

Say It Like You Mean It! by Howard Theriot

Many people approach marketing with a focus on goals. Sure, you must have goals, but can you truly know our goals without first defining our problem? The problem creates the need for the goal, and so the problem defines the solution.

Defining and understanding our business problems helps prepare you to develop more effective solutions. These solutions these creative solutions are by definition, solutions that are untried. They involve risk and require you to make decisions that often do not meet with immediate, universal acceptance. Sometimes you cannot see beyond your own nose. We think in the same way every day and get stuck in the same ruts and routines. We can't veer from this path because this is where you found success. But, dare to remove all experience and expertise and approach the problem with an open mind a naive mind and ask the obvious questions. Ask the dumb questions. And from this new point of view you will generate fresh ideas and truly creative marketing solutions.

–A well defined problem will generate a well developed creative solution.

–A well developed creative solution will generate an effective marketing strategy.

–And an effective marketing strategy will play a vital roll in building and maintaining a thriving business.

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