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Did you know that January is the month people get rid of their junk? Spring cleaning might be the more popular phrase, but truth be told, winter's the time when folks buckle down and truly do some cleansing, space wise. Perhaps it's the promise of a New Year, when new and exciting endeavors are in place, when the world is your oyster and the moment is yours to seize. Thrift shops overflow with one person's trash, ready to become another person's treasure, and Craigslist is riddled with individuals trying to clean out their basements and garages in order to make room for new goodies set to be purchased in 2012.

Got a storage problem? You're not alone. Go back fifty years, and you'll see that our predecessors had a lot less stuff. These days, we place a premium on things, which means our closets and chests overflow with stuff we're hardly likely to use. The same goes for garages and storage closets, basement rooms and extra shelving. If your home is overflowing, you're not alone. Most of us purchase way more than we need, and then we look for places to put it. Wondering what you're going to do with all those things you purchased during the heat of the after-Christmas sales? Rest assured, there's a solution for you. Outdoor storage products, while generally not considered when it comes to indoor storage, are a great alternative to packed closets and cardboard boxes just waiting to disintegrate in the basement come flood season. Oversized, durable, and easy to move, outdoor storage boxes are quickly becoming a prime storage option for those whose indoor storage solutions simply don't cut it anymore.

Looking for a place to store all those paper towels you snagged on incredible sale at Costco? Instead of filling up your linen closet (which, let's face it, is full enough as it is), stick the extra rolls in your outdoor-ready deck box. Large enough to hold 103 gallons of water (or anything else that's the same weight and height), a deck box is an incredible alternative to closet or cardboard storage. Ideal for adding extra outdoor seating, you can easily snag a customized cushion to make the deck box more comfortable. Imagine, 103 gallons of extra storage! It's incredible. Large enough for dozens upon dozens of paper towel rolls, as well as out of season sweaters or winter jackets, a deck box is an amazing storage option for those running out of storage inside their homes. Waterproof and easy to assemble, a deck box is a great option for anyone looking to add a bit of extra storage to their outdoor space.

So, what sorts of things are you currently storing inside that could be transferred to an outdoor storage product? While most people automatically think of storing yard gear and gardening supplies, outdoor storage products are also great for out of season products. Running out of closet space? Seal up your large wool jackets and sweaters into plastic storage bags, and then layer them in an outdoor storage box. Voila! An entire closet, freed up and ready for things that are seasonally appropriate. Outdoor storage boxes are also great to store shoes, even outdated kitchen supplies or old photo albums and books. Essentially, anything you've been storing inside can be stored outdoors in an outdoor storage container, making it easy to clean up your closets and basements and add storage where you need it the most.

Ready to get cleaned up and cleared out? The first step is to have a garage sale, and to truly cleanse your home and your closets. Anything you haven't worn in six months, you're probably not going to wear anytime soon. If you're a clotheshorse, a good rule of thumb is to give away a piece of clothing for every new piece you buy. Same goes for shoes and any other new items you're purchasing - every time something new comes in, something goes out. This will help you minimize clutter going forward - but right now, it's time to get rid of the stuff you already own, or at least, find a better place to store it. Once you've cleaned out your closets and evaluated what you'll be keeping

and what you'll be getting rid of, it's time to organize a garage sale. One person's trash is another person's treasure, so there's no harm in putting things in the "give away" pile that you think are way out of style or won't be purchased. You never know what people will buy! Anything you can bear to part with can be stored outside in your brand new outdoor storage box. Stash your stuff and turn it into a chic seat, and your new storage box will do double duty!

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[Justin Karmie](#) - About Author:

Justin Karmie is a freelance writer who writes about home maintenance topics and products for a [outdoor storage](#).

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