

## **Garage Sale Gal**

### **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



When most people need something from the garage they walk in and grab it. For me, it's not so simple. Getting something in *my* garage is quite the ordeal thanks to all of my can't-pass-up-a-deal-at-a-garage-sale purchases. I found out just how treacherous that place can be when I needed a Lenox bowl I'd bought for a buck at a garage sale. It was stashed away in a plastic storage box buried beneath a cooler, suitcases and two iron tables. The stack of "treasures" soared 9 ft. high and was perched precariously close to some breakables. I know what you're thinking; that while uncovering the bowl many garage sale finds were harmed in the retrieval operation. Well, no not quite but you're close. My husband, Kevin, pulled off the tables but when he got to the suitcases one of them went airborne, smashed into the ceiling light and then came crashing down... on me.

Now, don't worry, I'm okay. But I do have a nice-sized bruise on my back just below the shoulder bone and it hurts when I move my right arm. But I'll be fine--as soon as the body cast comes off. All kidding aside, Kevin does feel bad—gosh, he's even sharing some of his Peanut M&Ms. (He keeps them hidden—chocolate's like garage sales for me—I can't stop at just one!)

But the "suitcase incident" turned out to be a good thing in the end. It made me realize we need some professional help. No not a divorce lawyer—an organizer. "The thing about your garages is that they're organized but there's a lot of stuff," Mindy Baggett of Simply Organized told me as she looked over hundreds of my bargain finds.

The Gilbert resident is a professional organizer who helps clients—room by room—get their life in order. Mindy has been de-cluttering homes non-stop since starting her business two years ago. The former junior high school teacher says part of the job includes educating people on how they can *keep* things neat long after she's left the house.

As for my place, Mindy says it's time for a lot of my stuff to go. Oh the humanity.

It's overwhelming and even paralyzing to look at years of accumulation knowing you have to do something with it. But says Mindy: "It can be very healthy to get organized. It reduces your stress level and you feel a sense of accomplishment."

My goal: two cars in the three-car garage instead of one. I'll let you know that goes! Right now I'm off to another garage sale.

#### ***Get organized***

**\*Master Bedroom-** Start here first. "That is a place where you should be able to go, unwind and take a deep breath. Your place of tranquility should be free and clear," Mindy says.

**\*Six month rule—**If you haven't used it or worn it in six months give it to charity or sell it.

**\*Have a garage sale-**A fast and easy way to become clutter-free. "Holding a garage sale is the most important step toward getting organized because you're clearing up much-needed-space," Mindy says.

**\*Maintain it-** Keeping your house organized takes just 15 minutes. Every day, put things back where they belong.

**\*Seek help-** Call a professional. Mindy motivated me. I cleaned out two kitchen cabinets and put half of the stuff in my garage sale pile. It's a small step, but hey, it's a step!

Contact Simply Organized:

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List and look for garage sales on [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com)



*Mindy Baggett of Simply Organized poses in front of just one of my many piles of [garage sale](#) treasures. Don't you just love that little Radio Flyer Fire Truck way at the top?*

**Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!**

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Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal:  
[Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com).

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*Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on local TV stations.*