10 basement storage ideas for a damp-prone space

Humidity damages basement storage over months, and a leak does it overnight. Measure the air, get everything off the concrete, replace cardboard with sealed totes, and keep an inventory so you know what's on the far shelf.

- [ ] **Hang a hygrometer and keep humidity under 60 percent**
- [ ] **Run a self-draining dehumidifier; check gutters, downspouts and grading**
- [ ] **Lift everything off the floor and a few inches off the walls**
- [ ] **Swap cardboard for sealed totes, with desiccant for anything porous**
- [ ] **Use steel or resin shelving, rated for the load and anchored**
- [ ] **Keep a clear path to the furnace, water heater, panel, sump and shutoffs**
- [ ] **Move paper, photos, fabric, electronics and fuel out, or seal them high**
- [ ] **Use the under-stair and joist bays for long, light items**
- [ ] **Keep valuables high, the freezer on a riser, and flood supplies by the stairs**
- [ ] **Light every bay, face labels out, and photograph each open tote**