



Garage Safety Tips for the Whole Family

Whether your garage is home to a gear-head's paradise, extra stuff, or just your car, it's important to keep it safe, clean, and easy to navigate. No matter how you use your garage space, here are some tips for you and your kids to keep it functional, organized and safe.

Keeping it clean

Just like around the house, it's important for your kids to know what's what in the garage. Organization and safety go hand in hand, so it's helpful to keep everything in its designated place.

Avoid mishaps in the garage by making sure you keep the area walkable and free of clutter. All items, such as tools and cords, should be properly stowed in a spot where you or your child won't trip on them. And keep an eye out for leaks and spills so no one is the victim of a slip-and-fall situation.

Chemicals like cleaners and car products can go in a cabinet or bin to keep them out of the way. If you have smaller children, it's a good idea to keep these potentially hazardous items locked up.

Safety and security

One way to prevent accidents in the garage is with bright lighting that's easy to turn on as you walk in from any direction – even if that means multiple switches. Put the switch at a height that your kids can reach for a little extra safety.

To prevent fires, keep flammable items securely closed and empty the tanks of your gas-powered tools when you're not using them. The garage is also a great place to keep a fire extinguisher (or two) handy – just in case. Plus, smoke and carbon monoxide monitoring is as essential to garage safety as it is in your home.

Whether you have an attached or unattached garage, locked doors are key. If your garage is unattached, make sure you and your kids keep a clear path to it, including removing snow to reduce your chance of slipping.

With an attached garage, make sure to lock the door that leads into your home as well. Even if you keep your cars in the garage, clear valuables from your car and leave the doors locked – just in case you forget to close the door for the night.

If you have electric garage doors, make sure your kids are out of the way when opening and closing them. Sensors and cameras can be helpful, but it's still important to be aware of your surroundings. Don't store items behind your car, and make sure your kids are standing clear when you pull your car out of the garage. This will help avoid damage to your car, some of your belongings and, most importantly, your family.

Lastly, be sure to not run the car in a closed garage – even if you only plan on warming the car up for a few minutes. The fumes accumulate quickly and can be deadly to anyone exposed to them for too long.

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