



## What is a 'safe' garage?

It is a space where everything has a place and there is a place for everything. The best way to organise your garage is to think through:

- what you want to use your garage for?
- what you want to keep in it?
- who will need access to its contents?

You should also consider the need to ensure dangerous items e.g. paint thinner, antifreeze or sharp tools are kept off the floor where your children or pets run the risk of getting hurt.

Lastly, it helps to create 'zones' in your garage which can include:

- Tool storage — start with a tool bench to anchor the space and add tool chests, incorporating heavy-duty tools safely into the space. Mount most-used tools onto the wall or into easily accessible, clearly labelled drawers or cabinets.
- Car "stuff" — store motor oil, coolant and filters together in a cabinet that's out of the reach of children or pets.
- Sports Centre — hang up everything from scooters to golf bags and skis, give a place for all those different balls, tennis rackets, fishing tackle etc. with individual lockers for each child as an option for personalised storage.
- Lawn and Garden — shelves can store potting soil, mulch and fertilizer. And hooks can store the tools. For the homeowner with a green thumb, a potting station can store the space with gardening tools mounted on the wall.
- Storage — you only have to look up to create even more storage opportunities. Garage ceilings offer great storage space, which means a permanent platform, storage track system and hooks can be installed to keep items off the floor for good.
- Recycling — this zone should be close to the garage door, since these items will be brought out at least once a week. Shelves can get all the recycling together and off the floor

This will all help create a clean and tidy garage but most important, a safe garage.