



Is your garage safe for kids?

Poisons and flammables

Many products commonly stored in the garage are potential fire hazards and can be poisonous to children and pets. Store these in a locked cabinet a child can't access. Be aware of look-alike poisons. These are poisonous materials like cleaners, washer fluid and mouse poison that resemble items kids are familiar with like sports drinks, juices and candy.

Storage and clutter

Consider what you are storing in the garage and if you really need to keep it. You'll have more space for things you actually need, and the garage will be a safer place for everyone to navigate.

- Keep toys in a low and accessible spot. Toys stored on high shelves may encourage kids to climb unsteady structures to reach them.
- Store ladders horizontally. Ladders should never be stored vertically as they could fall and hit someone, or a child might be tempted to climb them.
- Mount rakes and brooms on the wall and out of your child's reach.

Garage doors

- Garage doors can weigh up to 300 pounds. Explain to your child that garage doors are extremely heavy, and they should never play underneath them.
- Garage openers should be out of children's reach. Remind children garage doors and their openers are not toys.
- Ensure your garage door has an auto-reverse function, and test it on a regular basis. You can do this by placing a paper towel roll beneath the door while it is closing.

Many people select their garage as the safest place to store toxic materials like cleaning products and pesticides. More than 90 percent of exposures to poisons, however, occur in the home, which includes the garage. Clutter and garage doors can also pose significant risk. Be sure to include the garage on your spring cleaning and child safety list.

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