

Additional Considerations • • • Garages

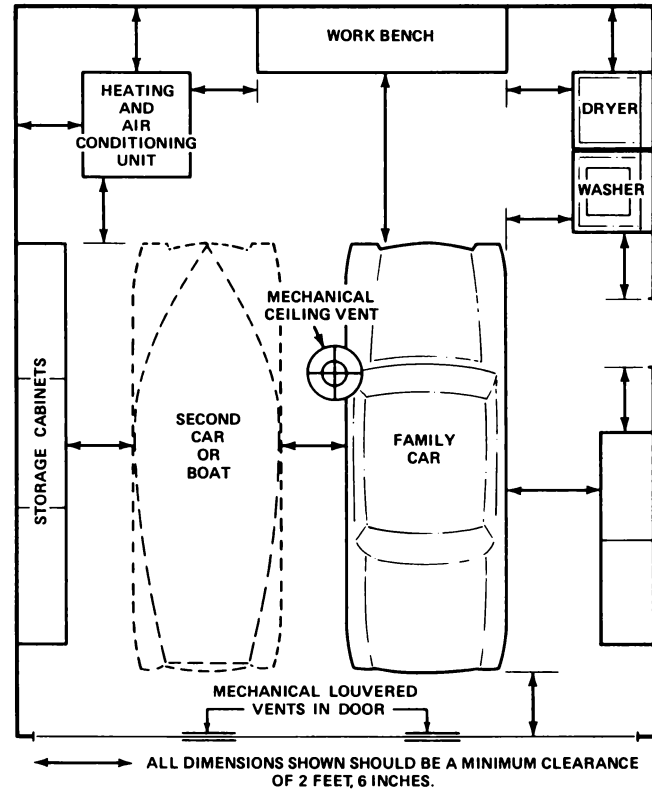
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

In the modern home, garages have taken on a larger role in day-to-day usage than was originally intended. Now, in addition to protecting the family automobile, they are used for laundry facilities, storage of seasonable items as well as chemicals and paints, boat storage, storage of lawn and gardening equipment, and they serve as the family handyman's workshop.

When planning the garage, adequate space should be allowed for all intended uses. A good rule to follow is to allow a minimum of 2 feet, 6 inches clearance space to the front of work benches, storage cabinets, laundry facilities, and on both sides of the automobile.

Good ventilation should not be overlooked as the garage area is subject to accumulation of gasoline fumes, carbon monoxide, and other chemical vapors. The front of garage doors can be provided with louvers and ceiling vents can be installed to take care of this hazardous condition. Where paints and chemicals are stored in closed cabinets, the door fronts should be of the louvered type.

When the garage is to serve a dual purpose, a minimum general lighting level of 30 footcandles should be provided. In cases where a work bench is to be used, there should be an illumination level over the work bench of at least 70 footcandles. Adequate electrical receptacles should be placed in the laundry area, the workshop area, and any other area requiring electrical power. All circuits connected to laundry and power equipment in the garage environment should be protected by a ground-fault circuit-interrupter.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Area illumination shall be 30 footcandles.**
- **Work bench area illumination shall be 70 footcandles.**
- **A clear space of 2 feet, 6 inches shall be provided in front of all appliances, work benches, storage cabinets, and around the automobile.**
- **Adequate ventilation shall be provided.**

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

Extension Division • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • MI-202 • March 1978
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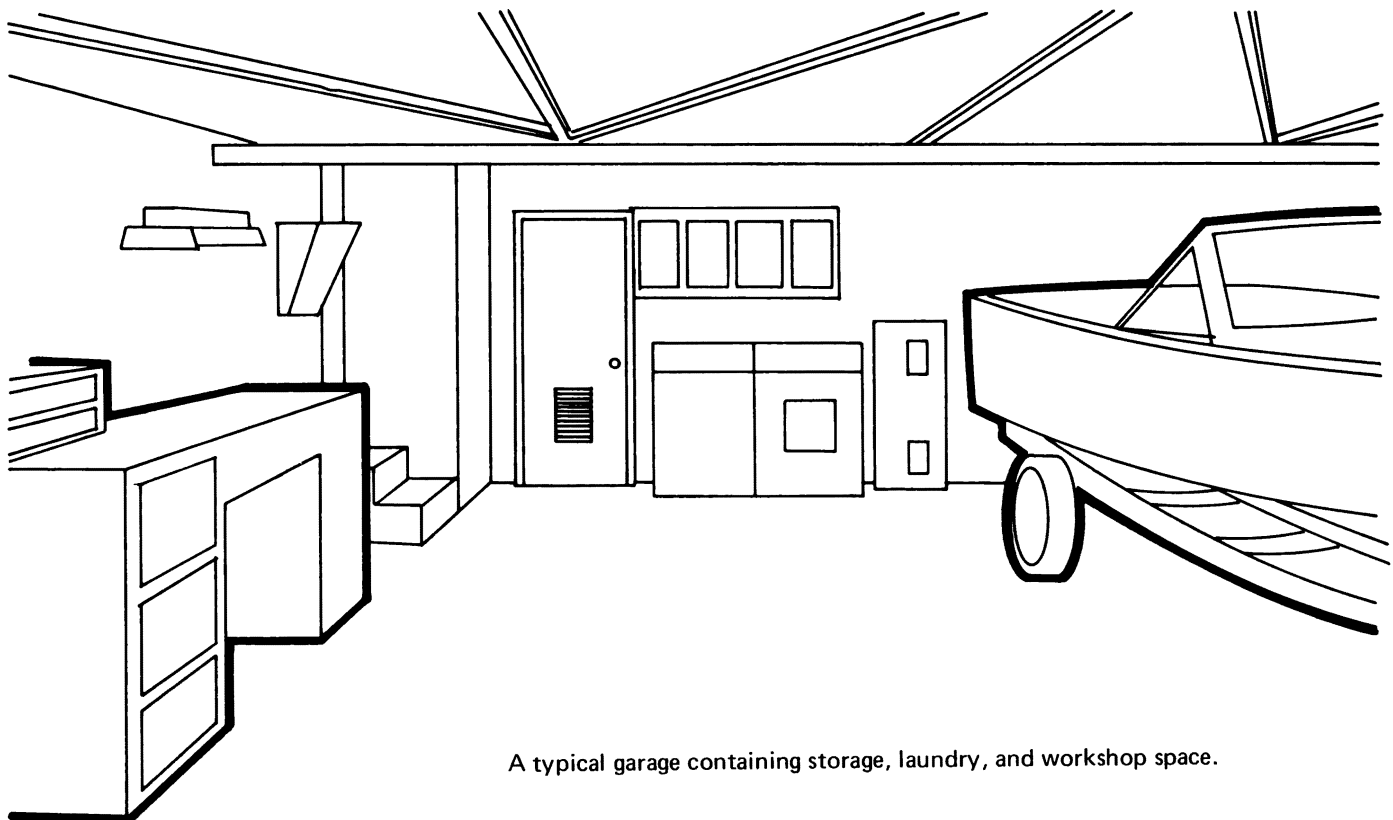
Originally prepared for the Office of Research and Technology, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
"A Design Guide for Home Safety" HUD-RT-17 January 1972

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. W. R. Van Dresser, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

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Garage layout showing adequate lighting & clearance.



A typical garage containing storage, laundry, and workshop space.