

# Garage Safety

The safety measures that pertain to the inside of the home are also relevant to the garage. Maintaining a clean and organized garage increase the overall safety of the home. To reduce the risk of slips and falls and other garage-related injuries, one might do well to follow the guidelines listed below.

## **SAFE STORAGE**

- Store gasoline in small quantities only. Use a proper, tightly sealed container labeled "gasoline."
- Make sure that no appliance with a pilot light is present.
- Poisonous products such as pesticides, automotive and lighter fluid, paint thinner, antifreeze and turpentine should have child-resistant caps, clear labeling and be stored in a locked cabinet out of sight and reach of children.
- Store shovels, rakes, bikes and other sharp and large objects on the wall out of busy areas.

## **GARAGE ORGANIZATION**

- Properly secure shelving units to the wall, making sure that they are not overloaded.
- Always store heavier items closest to the ground.
- Use a sturdy step stool with handrails when climbing is necessary.
- Organize all items in designated, easy to reach places.
- Keep floors and steps clear of clutter, and immediately clean up grease and spills.
- Keep children's toys in one area and within their reach to prevent children from exploring potentially dangerous areas.
- Supervise young children when they are in the garage.
- Use bright lights at the top and bottom of the stairs.
- Make sure your garage is well lit. Use the maximum safe wattage in lightfixtures.
- Install secure handrails or banisters on both sides that extend the entire length of the stairs.

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Reference cited- Home Safety Council, 2008