

# Garage Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Storing
  - Use waterproof plastic containers to store items in your garage.
  - Make sure poisonous materials are stored in high shelving or in locked cabinets.
  - Store any flammable materials, such as gasoline, away from any heat sources.
  - Store tools in low traffic areas.
  - Use sturdy hooks to hang equipment like bikes.
  - Keep your tools well-sharpened and clean so that they are easy to use.
  - Make sure the route in the garage to travel in and out is clear of tools and other equipment.
- Cleaning
  - Create three categories: keep, donate, and toss and assign each item to a category.
  - Contact local charities and arrange for a pickup of items to be donated.
  - Sort and label the items you're keeping.
  - Consider installing metal shelving.
  - Regularly clean your garage.
  - Make sure that the floor and other surfaces are clear of debris.
  - Clean it up immediately any spilled chemicals.
- Safety
  - Floor should be free of liquids or materials that may present a slipping hazard.
  - Garage should be clear of cardboard, paper or sawdust that might become a fire hazard.
  - Make sure there is a functioning fire extinguisher at hand.
  - Avoid idling your car or using a grill inside your garage.
  - Make sure your garage doors have safety mechanisms in place.
  - Instal a sensor that will reverse the direction of the door if any object is underneath the garage door.
  - The exit pathways should be clear and easily reached.