



## Roy's BLOG

# The value of having a garage.

by Roy Bardowell, CDDC

Of course everyone will have a personal reason for wanting a garage. These are my opinions on why a garage is important.

First some history — the garage as we know today has changed since the early 1900s. Before the invention of the automobile, people used horses and carriages to get around and the horse and carriage was stored in a barn. When the automobile began getting popular, people thought it was a fad that would soon peter out. Actually many people in some circles tried to ignore the replacement for their precious horses and carriage and until the 1920's some preferred to call it the horseless carriage. Upon returning home they stored the horse and buggy in a barn typically found behind the house. Even as more automobiles were purchased they were initially also stored in the barn.

During the first housing boom, the barn was replaced with a smaller separate building positioned also in the backyard. *This was known as a separate garage.* The barn or other out-building usually had two swinging doors called the carriage house doors. Ninety years later the carriage house design was incorporated into the garage door.

Making a garage door that went up and down, but looked like two swinging doors was more rustic and spurned nostalgia in many older folks. Today the carriage house garage door is very popular and will most likely be around for long time.

When traveling in rural America where farming is predominant you may still see many homes with a separate garage in the backyard. The problem with this layout was the need for a long driveway from the street to the rear garage. This

resulted in a new need; from this point on, the production of portable snow-blowers caught on fast.

The garage with the garage door that moves up and down is still the best choice. People normally think the garage is a place to keep the car from getting rained on, or snowed covered. *For me, it's all about security.* A car parked in the carport or driveway is acceptable to vandalism or theft. Parking a car behind a garage door offers superior protection from mostly anything. When foundations were replaced in homes with the concrete pad, they were built without basements, hence the garage became a storage room. Many garages I see are almost impossible to walk through because of the clutter which would have normally been stored in the basement.

The second housing boom occurred at the end of World War II. GI's returning home to America were offered low interest home loans, which kicked off an impressive



housing boom. It was during this era the garage was moved from the rear of the home and encompassed in many homes. The attached garage was nothing short of a revolution in garage design. This design was far superior than having to walk to a barn or other out-building and this design caught on very fast. The attached garage allowed the owner to access the car without having to leave the house which offered great benefit to those that experienced more foul weather.



Warmer regions in the country adopted a cheaper version of the garage. The carport is mostly found in Florida and other southeastern states, although popular in some states, the carport provides very little protection from vandalism or theft. In Florida, there are many companies that will close off a carport and upgrade it with a garage door. Today the ‘attached garage’ is still the most popular garage design. Builders have home plans for one, two, and three door garages. The introduction of houses with three garages led to a boom in garage door and operator sales right up to 2008 when the housing crisis shut down most new home construction.

For single women a clean attached garage is the safest method to come and go. Keeping your garage organized and free of clutter is an ongoing task without end. If you have a two-car garage you should try and keep one side open for the car and the other side for storage. Keeping your garage clean will deter small rodents and other creepy insects from making a home in the garage.

Garages are constantly evolving with new concepts added every year. Some of the more popular garage add-ons are pre-formed work benches, workshops, storage options, and epoxy floors. The workshops are a main component that makes a garage into a ‘Man-cave’. The epoxy floors prevent oil from staining the concrete floor and make it easy to wash down. Seven to eight foot high storage solutions include shelving typically installed on the garage walls.

In the last 5 years I have seen the development of many overhead storage solutions. Of course, one of the most popular garage options is motorization. A motor operator completes the garage and truly makes the whole system an extraordinary convenience that you will truly enjoy.

*To sum it all up:* the garage attached to the house with the garage door offers the best security and convenience for your car or other goods you have stored inside.

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*The biggest advantage to having a garage attached to the house is you can access your car directly from the home without having to step outside.”*

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*He has been in the door and operator industry since 1973 and is known as one of the industry’s most experienced operator technicians and trainers. Roy received the IDEA Commitment to Excellence award in 2008 and IDA’s Jerry R. Reynolds Volunteer Service Award in 2017.*

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