



NEWS RELEASE

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TODAY'S POWER GARAGES SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR FOR CAR, GARDENING AND SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS ALIKE

ARCHBOLD, OH -- Make room, muscle car and mini-van – the garage is emerging as a bona fide room in its own right. Not just spinning its wheels as a parking slot, today's power garage is an action-packed hub for auto enthusiasts, gardeners and sports buffs.

"The once-humble garage is becoming a favorite room for today's multi-activity families," says Doug Krieger, design director for Sauder. "Whether customizing a car or potting plants, Americans are increasingly transforming the garage into a much-used environment for work and play."

Serious auto enthusiasts – those who invite friends over to change the transmission – are leading the charge. They're opting for finished walls and floors, sleek furnishings and ample storage to create a dream garage for working and even for entertaining other car buffs.

But they can't keep the rest of the family out. Sports involvement is up almost 50 percent, reports the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, and 85 percent of households garden, says the American Nursery and Landscape Association. These leisure pursuits beg for garage space, too.

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Krieger and the Sauder design team suggest tips for making the garage a multi-purpose hub for the entire family.

** Let walls and floors create a unifying backdrop, Krieger says. For instance, walls with bold metallic paint or crisp light-colored paneling give today's high-powered garage a hip, pulled-together look. Floors can be painted, tiled or covered with oversized mats for visual harmony -- and easy clean-up.

** Organize the entire family's recreational items with a mix of cabinets, open shelving and mobile units, suggests Krieger. Sauder's Garage Boss cabinets with doors offer sturdy, out of sight storage, and open shelf units keep frequently used items from basketballs to watering cans close at hand. A mobile storage caddy moves wherever the action is, and organizes equipment from gardening tools to skis.

** Customize the garage for the dedicated car buff by combining components from the slick, functional Hot Rod Garage system, co-branded by Sauder and Primedia's *Hot Rod Magazine*. Two-door and three-drawer storage cabinets, for example, can be configured horizontally or vertically to organize everything from jumper cables to air compressors.

** A workbench is to the garage what a sofa is to the living room, Krieger notes. Sauder's Hot Rod Garage workbench boasts a 54-inch wide work surface, pegboard back, fluorescent light, storage shelf and electrical outlet. A companion mobile work island instantly doubles work space.

With thought and planning, consumers can readily fashion their garages into multi-purpose action hubs.

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