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Nearly six million UK garages not used for cars as they're too full of junk

More than half (5.7m) of the UK's estimated 11m garages* are not used to park cars in them... mostly because they're too full of household junk, according to new research carried out by RAC Home Insurance.**

Fifty-three per cent of drivers with garages claim never to put their cars in them, with just four-in-10 (40%) doing so on a regular basis and 8% occasionally. Instead, 70% say they leave their vehicles on the drive and two-fifths (18%) on the street, with the remainder using private or public car

parks.

By far and away the number-one reason for failing to use garages for the purpose they were intended is that they have too many other items stored in them – a fact that 68% of drivers with garages they don't park their cars in admitted to.

Among the items most commonly kept in UK garages are DIY tools and materials (90%), gardening tools and garden furniture (74%), push bikes and scooters (55%), welly boots and shoes (36%) and camping equipment (24%).

The second most popular reason for not parking in the garage – cited by four-in-10 drivers (39%) in the [RAC Home Insurance](#) study – was that there's not enough room to comfortably get in and out of the car due to the limited size of the garage itself. The situation is a bit more serious for nearly a quarter (23%) as they say there's not even enough space to open the car doors when it's parked in the garage. And, perhaps strangest of all, three-in-10 (30%) claim their cars are just too big to even get through the garage door in the first place – potentially due to the increased size of some modern cars such as SUVs which have grown considerably in popularity in recent years.

Looking at what garages are used for, more than eight in 10 drivers (83%) said it is additional storage. Nearly half (47%) use it as a workshop or DIY space, 9% as a home gym or exercise space, while one-in-10 (8%) say they had converted theirs into another room.

Among those who actually use their garages for their intended purpose, more than two-thirds (67%) say they use it to park the car they drive regularly in, but for three-in-10 it's home to a classic car. A handy 10% claim they use theirs as a space to work on another car.

RAC Home Insurance spokesman Simon Williams said:

“Our findings show the vast majority of UK garages aren't used for the purpose they were intended. At best, 40% of those with garages park their cars in them on a regular basis.

“It seems most garages are nothing more than additional storage, perhaps because many houses don't have enough easily accessible space to store lots

of household items. But in fairness to many people with garages, some just aren't big enough to get a modern car in, and then there are some that you can drive into but are then too small to comfortably get in and out of your car.

“With so many items such as bikes, golf clubs, tools and fitness equipment being stored in garages, it's important every homeowner makes sure they have a good quality home insurance policy in place covering both the building and its contents. One of the most commonly overlooked elements of a home insurance policy is 'new for old' cover which guarantees lost, stolen or damaged items are replaced with like-for-like new ones.”

[RAC Home Insurance](#) provides complete peace of mind for protecting all household contents alongside covering the structure of a property.

Notes to Editors

* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Housing Survey 2018, updated 2020 states 37.6% of all dwellings in England have garages. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/898459/DA2201_Parking_and_mains_gas_-_dwellings.xlsx

- BRE Trust – The Housing Stock of the United Kingdom 2017 - total dwelling stock 28,536,000 https://files.bregroup.com/bretrust/The-Housing-Stock-of-the-United-Kingdom_Report_BRE-Trust.pdf
- Extrapolating England dwellings with garages percentage of 37.6% to all UK nations equals 10,729,536 (37.6% of 28,536,000)

** RAC Opinion Panel survey carried out with 2,138 drivers

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About the RAC

The RAC provides complete peace of mind to 12m UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. Its services include:

- **[Breakdown assistance](#)**. Its highly-skilled, 1,600-strong branded patrol workforce attends more than two million breakdowns every year, fixing on average four out of five vehicles at the roadside. The RAC's patrol fleet is one of the most advanced in the UK, and was the first to roll out both an [All-Wheels-Up recovery system](#), allowing the vast majority of vehicles to be recovered from a single patrol van, and [EV Boost](#) mobile electric vehicle charging units
- **[Insurance](#)**. The RAC is a top-five [car insurance](#) broker having surpassed the 500,000 policies-in-force milestone in 2018. It also offers ['black box' telematics policies](#), as well as home and travel insurance
- **[Other motoring services](#)**. The RAC leads in the development of new solutions for business, fleets, electric vehicles and future car technology. Its additional products and services include a [personal loans offering](#), a [used car buying website](#), [vehicle inspections and checks](#), [legal services](#) or up-to-the-minute [traffic and travel information](#). It also has a network of [Approved Dealers](#) and [Approved Garages](#) which combine the trust of RAC brand with local service and convenience

The RAC also works to support the interests of its members and UK drivers on the most important motoring issues which it identifies via the annual [RAC Report on Motoring](#) and the RAC Opinion Panel. The Report on Motoring is the longest running analysis of driver opinion in the UK having been published every year since 1989.

For more information about the RAC, visit the [RAC website](#).

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