

BASEMENT/GARAGE/WORKSHOP/STORAGE AREAS

In the basement, garage, workshop, and storage areas, check lighting, fuse boxes or circuit breakers, appliances and power tools, electrical cords, and flammable liquids.

Are work areas, especially areas where power tools are used, well lit?

Three-fourths of injuries caused by power tools are finger injuries.

Good lighting can reduce the chance they will accidentally cut their finger.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Either install additional light, or avoid working with power tools in the area.

Can lights be turned on without first having to walk through a dark area?

Basements, garages, and storage areas can contain many tripping hazards and sharp or pointed tools that can make a fall even more hazardous.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Keep an operating flashlight handy.

➤ Have an electrician install switches at each entrance to a dark area.

If fuses are used, are they the correct size for the circuit?

Replacing a correctly-sized fuse with a larger size fuse can create a serious fire hazard.

If the fuse in the box is rated higher than intended for the circuit, excessive current will be allowed to flow and possibly overload the outlet and house wiring to the point that a fire can begin.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Be certain that correct-size fuses are used. (If you do not know the correct sizes, consider having an electrician identify and label the sizes to be used.)

NOTE: If all, or nearly all, fuses used are 30-amp fuses, there is a chance that some of the fuses are rated too high for the circuit.

Are power tools equipped with a 3-prong plug or marked to show that they are double insulated?

These safety features reduce the risk of an electric shock.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Use a properly connected 3-prong adapter for connecting a 3-prong plug to a 2-hole receptacle.

➤ Consider replacing old tools that neither have a 3-prong plug nor are double insulated.

Are power tool guards in place?

Power tools used with guards removed pose a serious risk of injury from sharp edges or moving parts.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Replace guards that have been removed from power tools.

Has the grounding feature on any 3-prong plug been defeated by removal of the grounding pin or by improperly using an adapter?

Improperly grounded appliances can lead to electric shock.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Check with an electrician if you are in doubt.

Flammable and Volatile Liquids

Are containers of volatile liquids tightly capped?

If not tightly closed, vapors may escape that may be toxic when inhaled.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Check containers periodically to make sure they are tightly closed.

Are gasoline, paints, solvents, or other products that give off vapors or fumes stored away from ignition sources?

Gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored out of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers.

YES NO If NO, where

➤ Remove these products from areas near sources of heat or flame such as heaters, furnaces, water heaters, ranges, and other gas appliances.

Note: The CPSC has reports of several cases in which gasoline stored as much as 10 feet from a gas water heater exploded. Many people are unaware that gas fumes can travel that far.