



Automobile Repair Garages: Loss Prevention Tips

We recognize automobile repair garages face unique considerations and risks associated with repairing vehicles.

Understanding the hazards associated with repair garages and putting safeguards in place can help avoid costly losses and protect your business.

The following tips can help keep your automobile repair garage running safely:

Storage

Flammable Liquids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· To reduce the risk of flammable vapours, flammable liquids should be stored in listed metal safety containers. They have self-closing lids to keep the vapours inside. Small amounts can be kept in their original containers.· The bulk of flammable and combustible liquids should be stored in listed metal cabinets.
Compressed Gas Cylinder (Acetylene and Oxygen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ensure cylinders are stored in the upright position with safety caps in place to protect the valve assembly.· Cylinders should be chained or clamped to prevent them from accidentally tipping over.· Oxygen cylinders should be separated from other cylinders by a clear space of at least 6m (20 ft) or by a non-combustible barrier.
Used Oil Storage Tanks/Containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· If stored outdoors, they should be protected from vehicular damage by bollards or concrete barriers.· They should have some type of containment system in case of a spill or leak. This can be provided by a concrete or steel dike built around the tank/container or by having a double wall tank.

Housekeeping

1. Store oily rags in Underwriting Laboratories of Canada (ULC) listed self-closing metal containers to prevent spontaneous ignition. With these containers, the lid should close by itself after rags are put inside.
2. Keep work areas clean and organized. Have waste material collected by waste management companies who specialize in the disposal and recycling of these types of materials.
3. Keep floors clean to reduce slipping and tripping hazards. All spills should be cleaned up immediately.

Electrical Safety

1. Make sure cords are in good condition, not frayed or cracked.
2. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs.
3. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis. They are not intended to be used as permanent wiring.
4. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) should be used in any area where water and electricity may be present.

General Safety

1. Do not block or obstruct access to portable extinguishers, doorways and emergency exits.
2. Employees should always wear proper eye protection when working on vehicles or when using power tools.
3. Do not allow customers to access work areas under any circumstances.