

newsworthy trends

Do Your Neighbors Suffer From Garage Envy?

(NAPSA)—When your neighbors peek into your garage, do they feel twinges of jealousy? Would you like them to? According to a recent national study, many Americans want to turn their garages into the space of their dreams and turn their neighbors green with garage envy.

Spark your neighbor's nosiness

If you're like many Americans, you probably wish your garage was in better shape. According to the survey, conducted by Rust-Oleum® EPOXYShield®, almost one-quarter (24 percent) of all homeowners surveyed are embarrassed to leave their garage doors open.

However, many of those same homeowners want to be able to leave those doors open, proudly giving their inquisitive neighbors a full view of what's inside. The survey found that more than half (52 percent) of Americans want garages their neighbors envy.

What are you hiding?

The survey also found that most people (63 percent) don't know what's in their neighbors' garages. And Americans are hiding some pretty interesting items in those garages, too. Those polled revealed that they keep everything from the ordinary, such as antique furniture, lamps and record players, to truly offbeat items such as a cat aerobic center, a barrel of racing fuel and a stuffed bobcat in their garages.

Host a grand gathering

It's understandable that since so many people are embarrassed of their garages, nearly half (45 percent) do not feel that their garage floors are in "top" condition. And while 29 percent use their garages for socializing, only seven percent of those respondents use their garages for par-



A garage makeover could make you the envy of the neighborhood.

ties—revealing a need for more presentable garages, including more top condition floors.

Most homeowners truly *want* to spend more time in their garages. The survey found that 71 percent of those surveyed would increase the time spent in their garages if hobbyist equipment were installed. Other popular items that would make a homeowner use his or her garage more often include a television, VCR and DVD player (37 percent).

Get a glowing garage

An attractive garage floor can also increase a home's value. Most of those surveyed (82 percent) said that when looking for a new home, the garage would be one of the factors in their decision to move. For those looking to create an enviable, showroom appearance in their garages and add to their home's resale value, Rust-Oleum EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating provides an easy way to protect your garage and make it more attractive. EPOXYShield is a high-performance coating that creates a professional, showroom-quality finish for garage floors. The coating is a water-based

epoxy that's low odor and environmentally friendly, and just one easy-to-apply coat creates a great-looking, long-lasting surface. It can cost up to \$1,200 to hire a professional to finish a concrete garage floor, but you can achieve the same professional results for under \$70.

America's Ultimate Garage Contest

If your garage could benefit from a new look, Rust-Oleum® and The Home Depot® want to hear from you. "America's Ultimate Garage" contest calls for those that want a garage makeover fit for a king (or queen) to take a picture of their garage and describe what it needs to be perfect for you. The winner will receive a \$10,000 garage makeover, the second-prize winner will receive a trip for two to any continental U.S. city and 25 runners-up will receive free EPOXYShield prize packages including a kit of EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating.

For more information on the contest, official rules, or to enter online, visit the EPOXYShield site at epoxyshield.com and click on the "America's Ultimate Garage Contest" link or the paint section within the Home Depot Web site at homedepot.com. To enter by mail, include your first and last name, date of birth, address (including zip code), telephone number, color photograph of your garage and a description, in 300 words or less, of what your garage means to you, why you deserve a garage makeover and what makes for an ideal garage. Mail entry in a stamped envelope to: America's Ultimate Garage Contest, P.O. Box 39101, Chicago, IL 60639. Entries must be post-marked by Wednesday, October 15, 2003.