

# Storage Garage Fire Inspection Guidelines

## Important Notice

Storage garages (parkades) in multi-residential occupancies are to be used for the parking of vehicles only (this includes bikes, scooters, motorcycles, and watercraft). Storage of bicycles must be in accordance with DWV Fire Rescue Bylaw No. 5163, 2021. Storage of items other than the parking of vehicles is not permitted with a storage garage. Storage is not permitted in portable storage containers or in bike lockers within a storage garage.

## Common Fire Service Requirements

- Always ensure that the storage garage is only used to store vehicles, bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, or water vehicles (boats, kayaks).
- Bicycles are stored in a fire-rated storage room **or** within a chain-link enclosure and fixed in place **or** within an enclosed parking stall fixed in place.
- Ensure no space has been converted into use as a hobby space, living space, or any other unpermitted use as determined by the BC Building Code, BC Fire Code, or District of West Vancouver bylaws.
- Must not contain dangerous goods such as propane cylinders, or flammable liquids.
- Vehicle tire storage is not permitted.
- Firewood storage is not permitted.
- Fire doors must not be blocked or wedged open, including stairwell doors. Fire doors must self-close and latch properly to maintain fire separation.
- Exit signage must be visible and always remain illuminated while the building is occupied.
- Emergency lighting must be operational, with no visible damage, aimed in the proper direction, and serviced and tagged annually by a certified technician.
- Exit passageways must not be blocked.
- Exit doors and door hardware are in working order and must be unlocked from the inside when the building is occupied.
- Electrical/mechanical rooms must be identified.
- Electrical panels, sprinkler control valves, and all other electrical and mechanical appliances must be easily accessible and kept clear of storage.
- The permanent use of extension cords is not permitted.
- Combustibles such as cardboard and sawdust to soak up oil spills are not permitted.
- Garbage disposal containers must have tight-fitting lids and be kept in a fire-separated room. In garbage rooms, combustible materials should not be allowed to accumulate, and the room should be empty, except for the garbage container itself.
- Fire separations must have no holes or openings that compromise their purpose.
- Personal lockers within approved storage rooms must be maintained to not compromise sprinkler coverage, nor contain dangerous goods such as flammable liquids or propane cylinders.
- Shipping containers are not permitted in storage garages. Any shipping containers on the property must conform to West Vancouver Fire Bylaw No. 5163, 2021 s. 9.66–9.73.
- Ladders are permitted but must be affixed to a wall.
- No storage cabinets, shelving, lockers, boxes, or loose items to be stored in the storage garage.
- Please refer to the Storage Garage FAQ answers for more detail.



## WEST VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE

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