





A small garage makes you choose. Either the car fits, or the storage does. With the right plan, you can keep both. Custom garage cabinets, designed around inches rather than feet, turn tight square footage into a tidy, flexible workspace that feels larger than it is. The trick is knowing which dimensions matter, how materials behave in a garage environment, and where to spend versus save.

Start by Measuring What You Never Thought To

Every good cabinet layout begins on the floor with a tape measure, a notepad, and a willingness to crawl behind the water heater. I learned that the hard way on a 1950s bungalow where the homeowner swore the wall was straight. It bowed by nearly an inch over 8 feet, and the prebuilt boxes he ordered never sat flush. Custom units let us scribe the backs to the wall and gain the depth he needed for a compressor [garage cabinet company](#) without eating into the car path.

The core dimensions you need extend beyond simple width and height. You are planning a dance between obstacles, vehicle swing arcs, and code clearances. On most small one-bay garages, usable cabinet depth runs from 12 to 20 inches. Go deeper, and doors or rear bumpers start to kiss the corners. Standard ceiling heights often land between 8 and 10 feet, but openers, torsion springs, and low-hung ductwork dictate where wall cabinets can hang. Make a map of oddities like cleanout caps, sprinkler heads, and electrical panels, since code requires clear access to those.

A measuring routine that works in the field includes wheelbase and mirror-to-mirror widths of your vehicle, the open arc of the driver door, and where your tires land much of the time. Chalk lines on the slab help you see how much room you really have.

Quick measuring checklist:

- Floor slope front to back and at the sides, noted in inches over 8 feet
- Clearances around heaters, panels, and doors, with code-required space marked
- Garage door travel path, opener height, and any low trusses or beams
- Car footprint with door swing arcs, verified with chalk or painter's tape
- Wall straightness and plumb, checked at three points per run

Those numbers tell you which cabinet shapes make sense and which will aggravate you daily. A 14 inch deep wall cabinet, for example, often clears a car door at the hinge side where a 16 inch case would nick it every third exit.

When Custom Beats Stock by a Mile

Stock garage units have improved. You can find powder-coated steel and laminated particleboard in decent widths that suit many two-car garages. But small spaces live in the margins. Shaving an inch from cabinet depth and adding an inch in door clearance can keep a sedan centered instead of offset. That is the territory where a garage cabinet company earns its keep.

Custom garage cabinets allow you to work with odd heights and tricky corners, integrate shallow drawers beside tall lockers, and notch around plumbing without wasting volume. A common move for tight bays is to run a bank of 12 inch deep uppers high on the passenger side and a lower 16 to 18 inch counter on the rear wall. If you cook in the backyard, a narrow cabinet tucked near the exterior door can hold grill tools and charcoal without bleeding into the car lane. Try finding that exact mix off the shelf.

The ability to specify door style matters too. Sliding doors, which stack within the cabinet frame, eliminate the swing that steals aisle space. On a 20 inch deep lower unit against a side wall, slides can be the difference between opening a door and bumping your shin every time you reach for a socket set.

Materials That Survive the Garage, Not Just the Showroom

Garages test materials with humidity, temperature swings, vibration, and grime. I have replaced swollen particleboard toe kicks in Atlanta summers more times than I care to admit. The climate in the Southeast rewards dense, sealed substrates and hardware that does not rust.

Marine-grade plywood with a phenolic backer holds up well and takes fasteners without stripping. Industrial MDF can be viable for doors and painted panels if edges are fully sealed with two coats of conversion varnish or a similar catalyzed finish. For interiors, prefinished birch ply resists staining and wipes down easily. If you prefer metal, powder-coated steel cabinets shine in durability, but watch weight on wall mounts and mind thermal expansion gaps near tight corners.

Hardware deserves the same attention. Full-extension slides rated at 100 pounds per pair are a baseline for tool drawers. Go heavier if you store dense items like sockets or fasteners; 150 to 200 pound ratings stop the rattle and hold alignment longer. Stainless or zinc-coated hinges avoid corrosion in damp garages. Magnetic catches are quiet and reliable, but for taller doors consider soft-close to prevent slamming against face frames when the slab is slightly out of level.

And since we are talking small spaces, every ounce counts. A bank of five 24 inch wide steel drawers can weigh 150 to 200 pounds empty. Multiply that across a wall and you are putting a meaningful load on anchors and studs. Custom garage cabinet builders factor that into mounting choices, spreading loads across studs instead of relying on toggle bolts.

Depth, Height, and the Art of Not Banging Your Door

Depth sets the feel of a small garage more than any other dimension. Here is how I approach it:

- Along the driver side, keep wall cabinets to 12 to 14 inches deep if the car parks close. That allows a typical sedan door to clear at the hinge, the tightest point.

- The back wall is where you can push to 18 or 20 inches for a counter and drawers. If the garage is only 18 to 20 feet long, set the counter height at 36 inches and keep the counter depth at 18 inches so you still have room to walk behind a parked car.
- Overhead storage above the hood can be deeper, 20 to 24 inches, if installed high enough to avoid forehead knocks. Tie into ceiling joists or trusses with proper blocking.

Height requires a different eye. The bottom of wall cabinets near doors should land around 66 to 72 inches from the floor. That clears most door arcs while staying reachable for commonly used items. On the rear wall, consider a counter at standard 36 inches with drawers below and a short upper run at 54 inches. The gap in between is perfect for pegboard or a slatwall strip where you can hang everyday tools without opening a cabinet.

One of my favorite space savers is a fold-down work surface that tucks into a shallow cabinet. A 1 inch thick birch top, edged in hardwood, can drop from a 6 inch deep wall case and lock with marine latches. When stowed, it projects less than a hand's width. When opened, it gives you 24 by 36 inches of honest workspace.

Corners and Curves: Making Problem Areas Work

Corners eat space, especially where a garage door track curves down. Instead of forcing a standard box into the crimp, build a diagonal corner cabinet with a shallow depth, say 10 to 12 inches at the face, that notches around the track. Use it for spray cans and detailing supplies you grab quickly. On the opposite corner, a tall locker can step in depth from 24 inches at the rear to 18 inches at the front, easing the approach and keeping a clean line.

Where water heaters sit in the garage, respect clearance codes and access requirements. Rather than walling off the tank completely, I like a U-shaped surround with removable panels held by turn buttons. It looks finished, it muffles some noise, and service technicians do not curse your name.

For small spaces, toe kicks are not an afterthought. A 3 inch deep, 3 inch high recessed base lets you stand closer to the counter without your shins hitting doors. That small ergonomic change keeps deep drawers useful and reduces accidental dings from footwear.

Doors, Drawers, and the Right Mix for Tight Rooms

In narrow aisles, door swing is the enemy. Sliding doors, as mentioned earlier, eliminate the problem but require precise tracks and a clean interior edge. Bifold doors can work on tall lockers if reinforced with pivot hinges at top and bottom, but they tend to rattle more on rough slabs. For most small spaces, I mix drawers and a few narrow doors. Drawers make better use of shallow depths, because you see the entire contents without pulling bins.

Shallow drawers, 3 to 4 inches deep, become your best friends. Thirty sockets in labeled foam inserts live happily at 3 inches. Longer, lighter items like zip ties or paint brushes slide into 2 inch trays. Reserve the 8 to 12 inch deep drawers for bulky items like nailers, a circular saw, or stacked microfiber towels in bins. Tall lockers handle ladders, brooms, and seasonal gear. If you need to store a folding stroller or golf bag, measure it unfolded and plan locker width accordingly. A typical bag with clubs tops out around 50 inches tall and 12 inches diameter. Design the locker opening at least 14 inches wide and 54 inches high with a top shelf at 60 to 66 inches so you can tuck balls and tees above.

Air, Moisture, and Atlanta's Particular Demands

Anyone fitting Garage cabinets in Atlanta battles humidity that climbs past 80 percent on summer afternoons, plus the occasional splash of red clay and deicing salts from winter trips north. Materials swell, finishes haze, and cheap hardware corrodes. A seasoned garage cabinet company in the region will spec finishes and substrates that survive the swings.

Ventilation helps. You do not need louvered doors on every cabinet, but I add a discrete vent slot along the top of tall lockers so air can exchange. For cabinets that hold yard chemicals, I install a gasketed door and a through-wall vent that exhausts to the exterior. It keeps fumes from pooling in the garage, and the cost is modest if you plan it before Garage cabinet installation.

Floor slopes in older Atlanta homes can be dramatic. I have shimmed as much as 1.5 inches over 10 feet. Continuous base rails adjusted with threaded levelers help you carry that difference without building a trapezoid. Scribe the finished toe to the floor, and the install looks clean.

Pests are real too. Where termites or carpenter ants are a risk, avoid direct wood-to-slab contact. Use composite shims, plastic base isolators, or a metal plinth with a break between wood and concrete. Seal penetrations in the back panels so roaches cannot party behind the drawers.

Power, Lighting, and the Quiet Value of Outlets in the Right Spot

Small spaces reward thoughtful electricians. If you have ever stretched a cord across the rear bumper to reach a miter saw, you know why. When we design Custom garage cabinets, I prefer to integrate a shallow chase behind the rear backs or a removable valance under the uppers. That lets an electrician run Romex or surface-mounted conduit neatly, landing outlets exactly where you use them.

Plan at least one duplex outlet every 4 feet along a work counter, protected by GFCI where required. Add a dedicated line for a compressor if you run one often, and place the compressor low in a ventilated cabinet with a vibration mat. For battery chargers, a shallow shelf with an outlet strip at the back keeps packs off the counter and ready. Under-cabinet LED strips with a high CRI make color matching easier when you touch up paint or detail a car. A simple motion sensor at the entry keeps lights on only when you are there.

Wall Systems and Overhead Storage That Play Nicely With Cabinets

Slatwall earns its keep in small garages because it adjusts as your hobbies change. I often run a 16 to 24 inch tall band of slatwall between lower and upper cabinets on the rear wall. It captures tools, extension cords, and the random items that otherwise end up on the counter. Keep hooks shallow near car doors to avoid snags.

Overhead racks near the door header store bins you rarely touch. Just watch the interplay with the garage door travel. A 13 inch tall bin on a 14 inch rack often clears a standard track, but a low headroom kit can wipe that out. Where ceiling joists run perpendicular to the rack, add blocking or use racks with adjustable rails that span joists. Tie everything into structure, not drywall anchors.

Budget Ranges and Where to Spend

A truth from years of builds: you will never regret deep drawers that glide smoothly under load, or doors that stay square. If the budget is tight, keep carcasses simple and invest in hardware. Laminated plywood boxes with edge banding and midgrade slides can perform well if you pick your spots.

For a small one-car garage, a modest custom package might include a 12 foot rear wall with a 36 inch counter, six to eight drawers, and three upper cabinets, plus a 6 foot run of shallow uppers along one side. In my market,

that ranges roughly from 7,000 to 12,000 dollars depending on finish and hardware. Add powder-coated steel components, sliding door systems, and integrated lighting, and the same footprint can climb to 15,000 or more. Stock units can undercut those numbers, but you will give up the inch-by-inch fit that makes a small garage feel generous.

If you plan to sell within a few years, tasteful, well-installed cabinetry signals care and helps buyers imagine living there. You will not recoup every dollar, but organized storage and a clear parking bay often tip a buyer from maybe to yes.

Installation Realities: What Pros Do Differently

Mounting cabinets in a small garage is joinery and structural work dressed like finish carpentry. Garage cabinet installation starts with layout lines. We snap a level line around the room, mark stud centers with painter tape, and predrill back rails so fasteners land in wood at least every 16 inches. For masonry walls, Tapcon screws or sleeves anchor ledger cleats into solid concrete or block, never the mortar joints alone.

Floors are rarely perfect. We set a continuous base rail or separate feet and use laser levels to dial in height. Boxes sit on the rail, shimmed so faces align. Faces matter more than internal perfection. Your eye sees the reveal where doors meet, not the exact shim stack behind. Once a run is secure, we gang cabinets with screws through face frames or thickened sides so seams disappear.

For homeowners tackling a DIY install, the same discipline helps: mark studs, start at a level reference, and never trust the slab. Do not overload a single stud with a heavy cabinet, especially one with deep drawers. Spread the load across as many studs as you can reach, and tie into ceiling structure for overhead units.

Safety, Codes, and the Things Inspectors Catch

Electrical panels require clear working space, generally 30 inches wide and 36 inches deep in front. Do not crowd that zone with cabinets, even shallow ones. If you have a gas-fired appliance in the garage, maintain clearance to combustibles and avoid sealing it inside a tight box unless code allows and ventilation is accounted for. For attached garages, many jurisdictions require a fire separation between the garage and living space. That means 5/8 inch Type X drywall on certain walls and ceilings. When anchoring cabinets, avoid cutting big holes in that barrier. Use surface-mounted conduits for electrics rather than opening the wall if you are not prepared to repair and maintain the rating.

Seismic strapping is not a major concern in Atlanta, but wind loads exist. Heavy tall cabinets should be anchored at multiple points, not just to drywall. Drawer locks can be handy if you have children roaming the garage, and they keep tools from sliding open if you roll a floor jack over the slab.

Putting It All Together: A Real-World Layout

Picture a 12 by 20 foot one-car garage with a 9 foot ceiling and a door opener rail at 7 feet. The homeowner drives a midsize SUV and wants to park inside, store sports gear, and have a small workbench for bike repairs.

We frame the rear wall with a 12 foot run. Lower cabinets are 18 inches deep with a 36 inch high counter. From left to right: a 24 inch bank of four drawers at 4, 6, 8, and 10 inches deep, a 36 inch open bay with a slide-out platform for a compressor and a waste bin, then another 24 inch drawer bank. Above the counter, a 16 inch tall band of slatwall runs the full length, capped by three 36 inch wide upper cabinets set with their bottoms at 60 inches from the slab. That leaves space for the opener arm to travel.

On the passenger side wall, a run of 12 inch deep uppers starts 20 inches from the front [Custom garage cabinets](#) corner to clear the garage door tracks, with doors that slide rather than swing. The run ends 6 feet before the back wall to leave a landing zone for totes. Below, a fold-down work surface tucks into a 6 inch deep case. The side wall near the house door holds a 15 inch deep locker, 72 inches tall, with a ventilated door for soccer balls, cones, and a folded stroller. Across from it, a narrow shoe bench with a flip-up lid sits under the electrical panel, set far enough away to meet clearance.

Electrics include a dedicated outlet strip under the rear uppers, a GFCI duplex every 4 feet along the counter, and a shelf with four charging bays for bike lights and drill batteries. LED strip lighting under the uppers brightens the counter without adding shadows. The floor slopes 1 inch over the rear run, handled by a leveled base rail and a scribed toe.

Everything clears the SUV's mirrors, and the driver door opens without contacting the side uppers. The garage feels like it gained 2 feet, even though nothing moved but cabinet lines.

Choosing a Partner: What to Ask a Garage Cabinet Company

Not all Garage cabinet builders work the same way. When you interview a provider, ask about substrate options and how they finish exposed edges. Request load ratings for drawers and the exact fasteners they use for wall mounts. In a humid region, ask about sealers and whether they will back panel gaps to deter pests. If you are considering Garage cabinets in Atlanta, find a firm that has installed several hundred systems locally. They will have worked through crooked block walls, floor drains in odd places, and garage conversions with patchwork framing.

Pricing transparency matters. Good shops share a clear scope, including demolition, blocking, electrical, and any drywall or paint work around the install. If a company refuses to walk the space before quoting, be wary. The inches matter too much in small garages to skip a site visit.

Maintenance That Keeps Cabinets Working for Years

Custom garage cabinets do not ask for much. Wipe down counters with a mild cleaner, avoid standing water at the toe, and vacuum drawer slides yearly. If a drawer gets gritty and starts to grind, a blast of compressed air and a touch of dry lube brings it back. Check fasteners annually, especially on tall lockers and overhead units. Slabs move, and light retightening keeps faces aligned.

If you spill solvents, clean them immediately. Conversion varnish and powder coat hold up, but no finish loves a long bath in acetone. For wood doors, add a fresh coat of finish every few years if the surface starts to dull. In Atlanta's humidity, keep a small desiccant pack in the chemical locker and swap it seasonally.

A Pragmatic Way to Decide Between Custom and Stock

You can outfit a small garage with box-store cabinets and be happy, particularly if your storage needs are light and your walls are straight. The smaller and trickier the space, the more Custom garage cabinets earn their cost. If you routinely fight for inches, own heavy tools, or want a fold-down bench that tucks cleanly, custom wins.

Custom vs stock at a glance:

- Fit and clearance: custom follows your walls and car arcs inch by inch, stock forces compromises
- Hardware and load: custom lets you spec higher ratings where needed, stock mixes one-size-fits-most
- Door options: sliding, bifold, and specialty doors are common in custom, rare in stock lines

- Integration: custom hides power, vents hazardous storage, and blends slatwall cleanly
- Budget control: stock is cheaper up front, custom can target spend where it matters most

Small garages reward care and precision. A well-chosen layout from a thoughtful garage cabinet company turns a cramped bay into a calm, efficient room you use daily. Plan around the realities of your slab and your car, choose materials that tolerate your climate, and demand hardware that glides instead of grinds. Whether you work with local Garage cabinet builders or tackle a careful DIY, those choices make square feet you already own feel newly found.

Garaginization of Atlanta

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FAQ About Garage Cabinet Company

How much should garage cabinets cost?

Garage cabinets cost anywhere from \$500 to \$10,000+ depending on whether you choose DIY-friendly plastic/resin units, ready-to-assemble steel sets, or full custom installations. Costs scale based on the material, garage size, and whether you pay for professional installation.

Who has the best garage cabinets?

Finding the "best" garage cabinets depends on your budget and storage needs. For heavy-duty use and premium quality, NewAge Products is widely considered the best overall. For excellent mid-tier value, Gladiator is highly rated, while Husky provides the best budget-friendly metal options.

Is Garage Organization.com legit?

Yes, Garage-Organization.com is a legit e-commerce retailer that sells garage storage cabinets, shelving, and organizational systems. While they are a legitimate business, there are a few important things to know before you buy.