



May 11, 2011

THE GARAGE DOOR IS “THE MOST IMPORTANT DOOR IN THE HOUSE,” ACCORDING TO NEW SURVEY

A majority of Americans consider the garage door to be ‘the most important door in the house’ and -- will even bring their mother-in-law in through the garage, according to a just released survey by Austin-based Hutchins Garage Doors.

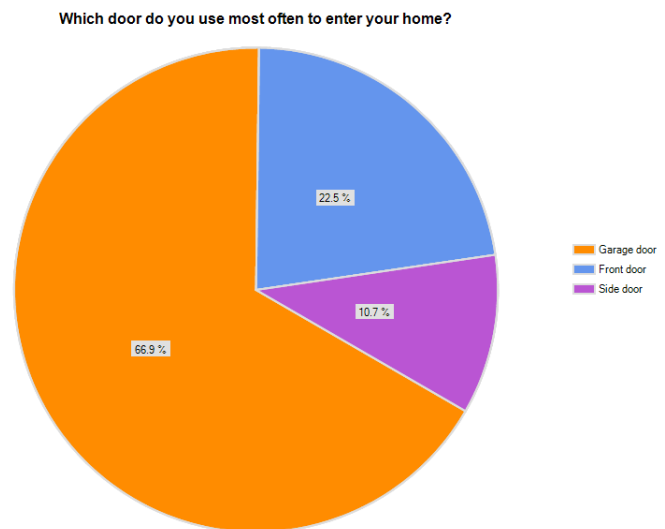
The “Most Important Door in the House Survey” found that **67%** of Americans primarily use the garage door to enter their homes, while only **22%** use the front door (**11%** enter through a side door). In fact, a trusting **12%** do not even carry their front door key anymore!

Even more surprising, **30%** of Americans now take their mother-in-law into the house through the garage door, rather than through the more reverential front door.

“The role of the garage door has changed radically over time,” says Hutchins owner Don Grenier. “Twenty years ago, we wouldn’t have dreamed of taking our most respected relatives in through the garage door. Today, however, nearly a third of Americans find it perfectly acceptable to bring guests in through the garage. This is just one more reason why we need to ensure an attractive, functional overhead garage door in perfect working order,” adds Don.

The survey was carried out by Hutchins Garage Doors, which has been installing and servicing garage doors in the greater Austin, Texas for nearly 15 years.

So important is this door today that a malfunctioning one gets top priority for the majority of American homeowners. More than **60%** report they have **not** put off fixing the overhead garage door because they thought it was too expensive.



However, **60%** of Americans never service their garage doors (an annual tune-up is highly recommended), which may account for the **44%** of homeowners' overhead doors that have malfunctioned in the past 12 months, according to survey results.

Multi-Purpose 'Room'

And just what do Americans do in their garages? For a good percentage, it's time for a clean out. **Twenty-five percent** store so much junk in their garages that there simply is no room to park their cars.

And while the garage may not be a refuge for their automobiles, the garage is a pretty good hideaway from their loved ones. Nearly **a quarter** of respondents admit to using the garage as a place of retreat from their spouse or partner. As you might expect, more men than women can be found hiding out in the garage (**33%** and **16%** respectively), according to the Hutchins "Most Important Door in the House Survey."

Perhaps related, the Hutchins survey found that **3%** of Americans have actually slept in their garages.

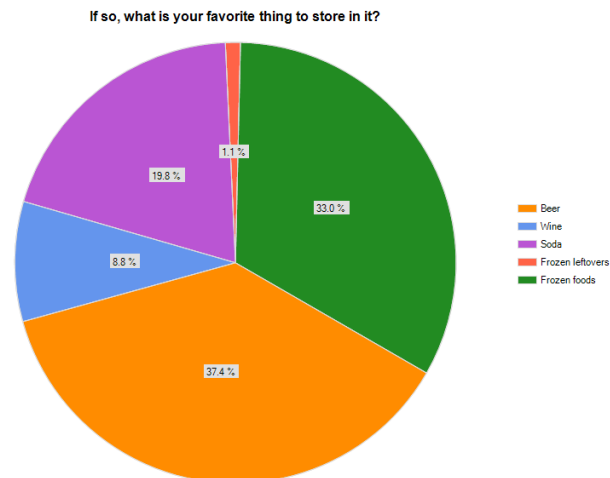
And what is America's favorite inside-the-garage pastime? The survey found Arts & Crafts (**10%**), fixing cars (**8%**), hiding from spouses (**7%**), recreational games (**5%**) and doing laundry (**4%**) were the best ways to hang out in the garage.

And while they're in the garage, a good percentage won't be far away from their refreshments. That's because **43%** of Americans report having an extra refrigerator in their garage, with beer (**37%**), frozen foods (**33%**) and soft drinks (**20%**) as their favorite things to store.

And what is the 'weirdest thing' Americans report doing in their garage? Merriment abounds, including all-night poker games, Super Bowl parties and rained-out family reunions and birthday celebrations.

The animal kingdom looms large; Americans report herding goats, stalling horses, hunting mice, killing rats, chasing copperhead snakes and storing the family bunny.

And what happened to the **62%** of Americans who report locking themselves out of their houses in the past year?



A lucky **7%** had been able to get right back in by climbing through their pet doors. Good going for the **16%** of Americans who report having a pet door in their house.

“For the vast majority of Americans,” says Don of Hutchins Garage Doors, “the garage door is clearly the ‘most important door in the house.’ This means it is vitally important to use high-quality doors that conform to rigorous safety standards and get regular tune-ups. This will go a long way to ensuring the safety and security of you and your family,” says Don.

Family Owned & Operated

Hutchins installs and services garage doors and openers in the Austin area, including steel doors, carriage-house doors, wood doors and the latest innovation—wood-free doors; as well as the very latest in garage door openers, outside keypads and remotes.

Visit the Hutchins Showroom

Garage door and opener samples are available in the Hutchins showroom off Hwy. 183 in Cedar Park, where customers will find everything they need to choose a new garage door or opener. Or - a technician can visit a residence or business for a free estimate.

Hutchins is A-Rated by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and is a proud member of the International Door Association.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For inquiries or more photos, please call Jeannine Wheeler at 512-442-5301 or email Jeannine@hutchinsgaragedoors.com.

Owner Don Grenier is available for further garage door installation advice or an interview.



2001 South Lamar Boulevard, Suite E
Austin, Texas 78704

(512) 442-5301 Fax (512) 219-1538

www.hutchinsgaragedoors.com