



ADD SPACE TO YOUR PROPERTY WITH A GARAGE KIT PACKAGE

If your home doesn't have a garage or perhaps one that is not large enough, you may have thought about adding one to your property. However, having a garage built by a contractor can be quite expensive. And even if you're handy enough to tackle the project yourself, doing all the plans and getting all the construction materials together can be a daunting task. That is why more and more people are looking at garage kit packages.

What is a garage kit package? It's a package that includes everything you need to build the garage of your dreams. A standard kit includes the framing lumber, wood trusses, siding and shingles, the garage door, windows and whatever else is needed to build a freestanding garage on your lot. It also comes with a set of detailed drawings including elevations, floor plans, truss and plywood layout, cut lists and various details.

The question that instantly comes to mind, of course, is: Can I do this myself? Can I build my own garage? If you are handy with tools and have a few experienced helpers you probably can (don't forget that you need a concrete slab or concrete footers). However, you can also get a garage kit through a builder or buy a kit and have a contractor do the work and the total cost will probably still be less than having one custom-designed.

In terms of costs, the kits are amazingly affordable. One-car garage kits in NJ can be as little as just over \$3,000, two car garage kits are usually between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and three car garage kits are generally in the \$7,000 range. As long as they build a garage, many people want to add some storage space as well. This is where gambrel "barn style" garages come in. The gambrel style roof makes room for an attic above the garage. Gambrel garage kits usually accommodate two cars and cost as little as \$6,000.

What if you have something special in mind? Most garage kit manufacturers give you all sorts of upgrade options. You can pick special siding, larger garage doors, skylights, cupolas, additional insulation, a metal roof, pull down attic stairs and more. And you can always apply your own touch to your garage project.

While most people add a garage to park their cars, garages can also be used in many other ways. For example, a garage kit can be modified to accommodate a small business office, a playhouse for the children, a home gym, a general recreation room, a guest apartment or just some flex space. The possibilities are endless, and having a separate, detached structure generally costs less to insure, and noisy activities in the garage do not affect the home.

Where can you get garage kit packages? There are very reputable mills and building materials companies that make and ship them. They use brand name products and make sure that all components meet industry standards. Kits are fairly large, of course, and it usually takes three or four weeks for one to ship, so plan ahead. Garage kit builders usually ship within about a 300-mile radius, so if you live in the Mid Atlantic region, a centrally located garage kit company may ship to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and other Mid-Atlantic states.

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