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Easy Street, Butte Properties

Park it, store it Garage areas in condominiums don't skimp on parking, storage

By Cara LaBrie

Whether it's holiday ornaments or a prized collection, tools or an off-road vehicle, it seems that we all have plenty of paraphernalia that eventually finds itself stashed in the garage. For residents of condominiums, it might seem like a challenge to store everything and still be able to park a car or two.

Fortunately, that's not necessarily the case anymore. In addition to designated parking for residents, many new condominium communities offer their residents extra storage for vehicles, big toys, bikes and years' worth of books and knick-knacks.

Responding to residents

Developers are learning what their buyers want — and plenty of easily accessible storage is often at the top of the list. When Tim Sprague, owner and principal of Habitat Metro, which is building Portland on the Park in Downtown Phoenix, and his team found out how important storage was — including the need for long-term storage — they converted unneeded parking spaces into locked storage compartments.

“When we built Portland Place, we learned that storage was dear to folks,” Sprague said. “We built storage in our building itself that's separate and distinct from each unit. We also have an abundance of parking. We think it's important to have the ability to feel comfortable with that.”

The developers of Easy Street condominium community in Carefree also listened to buyers from previous projects and have made storage a priority.

“We found that people have a great need for both storage space and parking spaces,” said Ed Lewis, owner of Butte Companies, which is developing Easy Street. “In addition, some of those people have a hobby car or a sports car and they wanted more security than a standard parking spot.”

Easy Street offers lockable storage spaces that run from 50 square-feet to 250 square-feet. “There also are private lockable garages with garage-door openers just like you'd find in a single-family home,” Lewis said. “Some of them are sized for two cars so you'd have room for a single car and a work bench if you want.”

Storage for big toys

“We have certain residences with their own two-car private garage areas,” said Phil Tibi, broker for Two Biltmore Estates in Phoenix.

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“It’s just like a regular home’s garage, except after entering the home from the garage, you enter a common area and walk to the residences,” Tibi [of Two Biltmore Estates] said.

For those garages, the space is extra high. One ingenious resident saw this and found a way to park both a Range Rover and a Porsche.

“The door actually goes higher than a standard garage door — high enough that you could install a lift inside the garage,” Tibi said.



Depending on the community, garages might include private parking, private garages, lockable storage units and special bike-storage areas.