

# EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria  
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## New Year's Resolution – Clean the Garage for Good Feng Shui

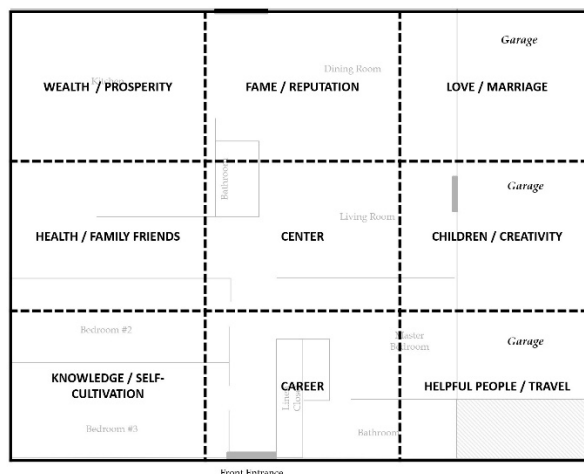
A client having recently come out of a toxic relationship and looking for love unfortunately discovered that her Feng Shui Love and Marriage Area was in her garage. What to do?

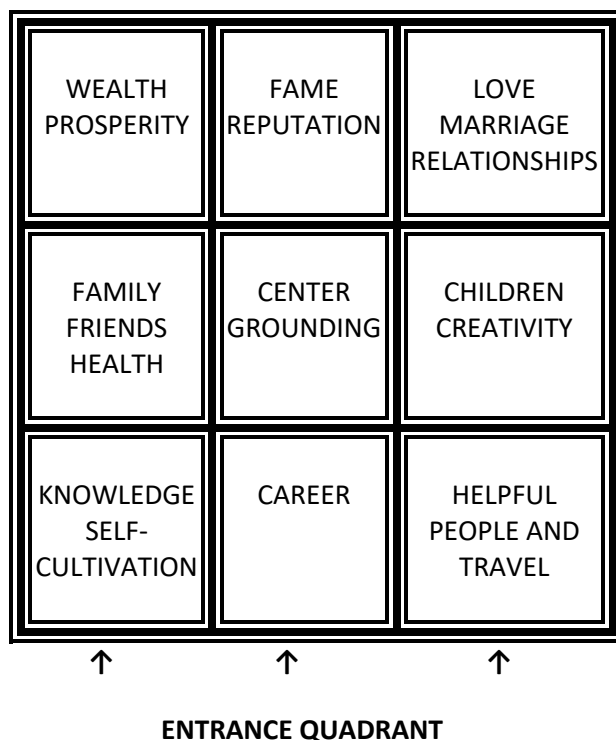
Did you know your garage can affect your life? Scary! What is your garage saying to you? In Feng Shui every area of your home is important to your wellbeing, harmony, and achievement. Garages take on the qualities of the Bagua area they inhabit and will either nourish you or drain you.

Don't let a garage that's packed with stuff drain your good energy. With the new year upon us, let's use this opportunity to do some major clearing. If your home has an attached garage it becomes an integral part of the Feng Shui of your home and needs to be included in the Bagua Map and cared for just as you care for the other important spaces in your life. If its nonattached but adjacent it can still act as a drain, like a messy, cluttered garden area.

### Garages and the Bagua

The Feng Shui Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, is represented as a grid of nine sectors. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams", with the center for grounding and centering. Each sector of the Bagua is represented by one of the elements.





Think of your garage as an important room in your home that requires love, support, and nourishment. Wherever your garage resides you can enhance it, so it begins to nourish rather than draining you by following a few simple steps.

### Transforming your Garage:

#### 1) Declutter

Garages and sheds are often host to random tools, storage, children's toys, and the remnants of moving. If clutter and grime have accumulated there, now is the time for a thorough going-over. So, what is clutter? Clutter is defined as any items that are disliked, unused, in excess and/or unorganized. By getting rid of the things you no longer want or need, you revitalize your home and make room for what you really DO want to flow into your life; you enhance your happiness, clarity and peace of mind.

Cleaning the garage is also a physical task which will also be great for some exercise. Begin by emptying it out, sweep and hose down the area, then when putting everything back, decide what is important to keep and decide what to get rid of. Take a day to create piles to throw away, give away, or reposition more neatly, and do it immediately. Sweep, dust, and polish to what I call "Moving the Ch'i." There are professional organizers and haulers who can help you.

Give yourself the gift of shelves and containers for your storage areas. Your environment displays your consciousness, and there's no more revealing place to look than behind the garage door. You'll know that you've succeeded in reinstating balance when you respond positively to your new room and feel a shift in your energy. Congratulations! Now watch for new opportunities flow into your life because you have let go of the old and made a beautiful new room for the new.

## 2) Enhance

Recognize the Bagua area it sits in with appropriate art or other symbolism. Hang a beautiful piece of art here as well, to warmly greet you each time you drive in. Add Yang energy with bright lighting that makes you feel safe and welcome, add indoor/outdoor carpeting or colorful throw rugs for comfort.

### Enhancements for Garages in Front of the House:

#### Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area (Wood Element)

- \* Items made of wood or live or artificial plants
- \* Colors of blues, greens, or black and in the shape of columns or stripes
- \* Art depicting nature scenes

#### Career Area (Water Element)

- \* Items in black or very dark colors, mirrors and glass
- \* Water features, (table fountains or aquariums)
- \* Art depicting water scenes

#### Helpful People and Travel Area (Metal Element)

- \* Art or figures pertaining to spiritual guides, mountains, or places where you have traveled or want to travel
- \* Items in metal and colors of white, black or grey

### Enhancements for Garages in the Back of the House:

#### Wealth Area – (Fire Element)

- \* Colors: purple, blue, or red
- \* Shapes: cones, triangles
- \* Items: items representing flowing water features, (small fountains or aquariums), opulent items
- \* Healthy round leaf plants (Live or artificial)
- \* Art: depicting wealth or items you wish to purchase

### Fame Area– (Fire Element)

- \* Colors: reds
- \* Shapes: cones, triangles
- \* Items: diplomas, awards and acknowledgements, up lighting, inspirational sayings
- \* Art: depicting animals, people fire and the sun, personal images, and symbols of fame

### Enhancements for Garages to the Side of the House:

#### Love and Marriage Area– (Fire Element)

- \* Colors: reds, pinks, white
- \* Shapes: cones, triangles
- \* Items: pairs of items (candles, love birds, vases)
- \* Art: art or photos depicting your significant other or romance, colors of reds, pinks and white

#### Children and Creativity Area– (Metal Area)

- \* Colors: white, pastels
- \* Shapes: circles
- \* Items: made of metal, pictures of children
- \* Art: whimsical fun art, creative endeavors, crafts

#### Health, Friends and Family Area– (Wood Area)

- \* Colors: blues, greens, or black and floral
- \* Shapes: columns or stripes
- \* Items: made of wood, floral arrangements (live or artificial), floral cloths, family/friend pictures
- \* Art: depicting floral scenes

I always also recommend hanging a 50 MM round faceted crystal in center to circulate the Ch'i.

Don't be afraid to experiment and be creative in your garage, if it is clean and functional, who says how exactly a garage should look? Treat it like a room in your home; paint it vibrant colors and enhance it based on the Bagua. It should make you happy as you drive in each day.

#### Affirmations and Inner Work:

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing your home or business. All enhancements need to be made with intentionality, with written or stated affirmations as if they have already happened. Examples of affirmations for garages: *"I'm in a loving relationship with my soulmate."*, *I am surrounded by helpful people."*

## Feng Shui at Work:

A client asked, “My husband wants the garage to be his “man cave”, what do I do? I told her to help him declutter and enhance using the Bagua Map. He turned it into a home theater room with a fully stocked bar. Since it was in the Knowledge Area we painted it a hunter green, hung nature scenes in wooden frames, and added a wooden bar. It has become an important room for entertaining and nourishes the house.

A non-attached garage can still drain you. Another client had a garage adjacent to her Wealth Area. Her husband wanted to make it his man cave, but it remained a constant mess. It became a point of contention and numerous arguments between them because all he would do is move the junk around the garage rather than working on more important projects or spending quality time with her. It was draining their funds and their relationship. Unfortunately, this led to a divorce. She cleaned and organized the garage, bought a new car and placed it in her recently organized space. Soon after, career opportunities came her way. She got a wonderful new job with more pay; her finances have improved, and she is in a much happier relationship. Don't let clutter influence your life!

A client was disheartened to learn that her Love and Marriage Area was in the back of her garage. (see graphic) She immediately set out to clean and organize it, placing items neatly in wooden shelves. She hung beautiful red curtains over the shelves, hung a large picture of a couple holding hands under the Eiffel Tower, placed items in pairs (such as 2 hearts) on counters with the affirmation “I am in love with my soulmate.” Every time she drove in, she was met with love enhancements. She is currently planning her wedding and an upcoming trip to Paris.

In this new year, make the resolution to make your garage count, and your life will thank you!

For questions or home consultations email at [mtmccull@aol.com](mailto:mtmccull@aol.com) and put “Feng Shui” on the subject line, or visit my website at [www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://www.fengshuibymaria.com), (where you can read past columns), or Facebook “Feng Shui by Maria”, where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

\* **Check out my BLOG** – Just go to the website [www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://www.fengshuibymaria.com) and click on “Blog”: You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

Until then...Blessings!

**Maria McCullough** is the owner / founder of ***Feng Shui by Maria*** ([www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://www.fengshuibymaria.com)) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience. She specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books including “The Western Guide to Feng Shui.”