

## Garage Door Glossary

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### Garage door maintenance

It's also called preventive service since it aims at preventing or stopping problems from expanding. The service includes various steps of checking and repairing the garage door system, so that all parts will work properly and accidents can be avoided, too. The good inspection of all garage door parts points out the possible weaknesses of the mechanism and so will troubleshooting. As a second step, most parts will need lubrication and hardware will need tightening, so that the system can be quiet and stable.

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### Lubrication maintenance

Garage door lubricants are special oils designed to smooth the movement of the door. A couple of drops must be sprayed usually twice annually to all mechanical components but also the chain of the opener (if there is a chain drive opener). Lubricants will gently flow among steel garage door parts and so they won't rub on each other creating loud noises. It will keep the movement smooth and the garage system will be quiet. The service of lubricating the parts is called lubrication maintenance.

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### Fasteners

Fasteners are all the small hardware that "fastens" other garage door parts. They include all kinds of screws, bolts, nuts, screw eyes and hooks that serve to tie other components together and keep them secure.

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### Electric garage door opener

The electric garage door opener is a device, which contains a motor that will activate the automatic operation of the door. Automatic operation is generated by using keypads, clickers or wall switches that are usually refer to as the transmitters while the opener is referred to as the receiver. When people press the button of the remote, signals are sent to the receiver and through radio frequencies the door moves automatically. There are three types of openers and they all relate to the way the motor works: the chain, belt and screw drive and they all differ in terms of noise level and strength.

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### Opener sensors

The sensors of the electric garage door opener are separate devices, which are placed at the two sides of the door in order to detect whether someone is walking under the closing door.

They are usually called safety beams since the beams of the two opposite devices must meet at the center under the door. If their communication is interrupted, their job is to stop the door upon touch with the object or person or reverse the mechanism before coming in contact. There are necessary parts of electric openers for safety purposes but of course there are also sensors detecting CO.

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#### Garage door rollers

The rollers are connected with the garage door in order to carry it in its up and down position (in the case of overhead doors). The garage door rollers are simply wheels, which sit in the tracks and have long stems that are connected with the door with the help of brackets or hinges. Both the roller and its stem come out in several sizes and materials and the choice is always based on the weight of the door according to **Garage Door Repair Kent**.

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#### Extension garage door springs

Extension garage door springs are called this way because they extend and retract as the door opens and closes. For this reason, their length must agree with the height of the door. These types of springs are chosen for average weight doors and not extremely heavy ones. They are installed at the two sides of the door since they must balance the door at the two ends and ensure even opening and closing. For the same reason, they must be replaced together.

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#### Garage door repair parts

Garage door parts will eventually rust or get worn either due to natural causes or to accidents. In any case, they must be replaced and the new components, which will replace the worn ones, are called garage door repair parts. Sometimes, they are referred to as replacement parts. Most parts bear a special code or number on them and so consumers can choose the right ones for their own garage door since parts differ in terms of size and capacities.

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#### Insulated garage doors

Some garage doors are insulated during manufacture. Industries use either polystyrene or polyurethane materials, which are placed in between two panels of the door in a sandwich sort of way. The door might become thicker with the use of polystyrene and in either case the indoor environment will have much better insulation. The energy efficiency of each door is determined by the extent of the insulation materials' thermal resistance and indicated by their r-value. Usually, r-value ranges from 6 to 18 and an average way to gain both in insulation and money is 12-value for normal climates.

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#### Garage door tracks

The tracks of garage doors are the rails running across the wall and the ceiling (in the case of overhead doors) and where the garage door rollers sit and slide through while carrying the door. They are manufactured by either plain steel or galvanized steel, secured with brackets and the vertical connect with the horizontal garage door tracks with curved ones. They must be chosen based on the requirements of the door and in relation to the size of the rollers. Possible dents could cause significant problems to the door's movement.

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#### Garage door motors

The motor of each garage door system makes automatic operation possible. The motor is the heart of the garage door opener. The horsepower of each motor will determine the power of the garage door. Garage door motors must be chosen depending on the weight of the door and average ones usually need  $\frac{1}{2}$  horsepower. Heavier and larger doors might need  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 1 horsepower. This will also determine the speed of the door.

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#### Torsion garage door springs

The torsion spring is a long spring above the garage door. There is a shaft going through it and has a stationary cone, which does not move as it is attached to an anchor bracket at one side securing the torsion spring. At the other end the spring has a winding cone and there are end and center bearings security the torsion spring. It is mounted under great tension in order to lift the door and it is mostly designed for heavier doors although there are still variations in the way they are manufactured and for which application (commercial or residential).

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#### Bottom seal

The bottom seal is the weather strip installed at the bottom part of the garage door. It's called like that due to its position and its condition will determine the extent of the property's security and insulation. All weather seals placed around the door are supposed to close the little gaps and keep elements and drafts out. The gap under the door might invite insects or intruders in. U-shaped astragals can be used or retainers, where seals made of rubber or vinyl can be inserted.

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#### Overhead garage doors

Overhead garage doors open upwards and follow the path of the ceiling as they continue their movement at the rear part of the garage along the ceiling. They follow the opposite

direction to close down. The door is connected to wheels, which sit and roll through tracks in order to make that journey. They just need backroom space and enough room at the two sides, so that the vertical tracks can be installed.

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Garage door brackets

Garage door brackets are made of metal materials, come out in different shapes and sizes and serve to secure other garage door parts with bolts and nuts.

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Garage door service provider

This phrase is used for garage door companies, which offer repair services. It is the company that provides services. Usual services include garage door installation, replacement, maintenance and repairs. It is the name used for professional companies, which through the above services, can fix problems and keep the garage system functional.

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Milk glass

Milk glass refers to the shade of the glass used for glass garage doors or windows. The glass panel can be tinted basically for the protection of one's privacy and milk is usually the shade consumers prefer since it's still white (milky white), elegant and allow the penetration of the sun but keep prying eyes out.

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UL 325

The phrase UL 325 refers to the guidelines set by the Underwriters Laboratories with the assistance of various companies for the protection of consumers from electric garage door openers. Electric operators must comply with these regulations by having the right sensors that will not only stop the door upon contact with a person or object but also reverse the movement of the door. Underwriter Laboratories do not certify openers but test and list and label them as approved.

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Sectional doors

Garage doors can be made of one single panel or from several ones. In the case of the latter they are called sectional doors. They are usually preferred by consumers since they can be individually replaced should they are ruined. They are connected with each other with hinges.

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## Opener upgrade

By upgrading the garage door opener, the consumer has the chance to add more accessories to the electric garage door. Nowadays, electric openers come out with many useful features but some accessories (like remotes, backup batteries etc.) are separate devices and can be added later or be replaced easily. They aim at making the control over the garage door more convenient and at people's safety.

Garage Door Repair Kent

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