

Garage Doors

What is the first thing you see when you look at a garage?

The garage door. It is the first and most important "contact" your garage makes with the world. If you want full confidence in your garage, this "contact" should be 100% safe and secure. The door also says a lot about you and of your taste. You may have a beautiful house, but if your garage door is an old, wooden, plain, white one that makes an awful sound when it is opened or closed, it says a lot about you and your negligence regarding safety and style.

An aging garage door and garage door opener can be a real threat to your children and pets. With the new openers and garage doors, injuries and accidental death are a thing of the past. If you plan to remodel your garage, one of the first steps you should take should be changing your doors and openers.

Garage doors used to be heavy, huge, wooden colossus that rotted and cracked. Even though wooden doors give you a wide range of styles and textures, the problems related to their poor insulating value are quite real. An good alternative is fiberglass material -- inexpensive, easy to lift, and resistant to corrosion. They require little maintenance, but they also provide very little insulation or security.

If you want a maintenance-free, durable, warp-free garage door, you need steel. Steel doors also provide good insulation, as they are made of two or more sheets of steel alternating with a variety of insulating materials. They also come in a variety of styles, textures, shapes and colors to suit your needs. Moreover, you can add windows -- including the reflective type that obscure the view into the garage.

Since 1991, automatic reversal on garage door openers have been required by law in the United States. Since 1993, optical sensors have been a requirement. The sensor works perfectly for your safety: if something gets in the way of the sensor beam while the door is going down, the sensor sends the door right back up. Also, new design options provide more security and a quieter operation. Today, the silent options include a belt-driven trolley made of Kevlar or, the cheaper option, a screw-drive model with a plastic-lined track to lessen the noisy impact of metal-on-metal.

Remote controls have been upgraded as well. You can find a remote control that has enough buttons to control the lightening and/or appliances in your home and garage. Another option for the remote-control buttons are the child-safe lock-out and rolling security codes which automatically change every time the garage door opens, in order to prevent someone from stealing your opener's code.

Even with all these changes added to your garage, security and safety are not 100% guaranteed. The installation of a new garage door and opener should be done by a professional team who can make the proper adjustments that will allow the sensitive equipment to operate with the maximum amount of safety in your garage.