



# How to Buy a Garage Door

This guide is an overview of questions to ask when hiring a professional and the main considerations for making an informed decision on your new Garage Door



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Make the Right Decision  
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# How to Buy a Garage Door

## Key Decisions in Three Steps

While there are literally dozens of things to consider when selecting a new garage door. The vast majority can be covered in three steps.

### 1. Select Your Material

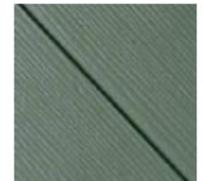
First, decide whether you want the natural beauty of wood, the durability and low maintenance of steel or the environmental friendliness of “green” wood composites. If you select steel, you will have the choice of one, two or three layer construction for extra durability and noise reduction



STEEL



WOOD



WOOD  
COMPOSITE

### 2. Select Your Style

Determine which garage door design best suits your home. Remember that even if you are replacing an existing door, you have a wide variety of styles and options to match the look of your home. Use one of the [Door Designer Tools](#) listed later in this report to help choose the right style door for your home.

### 3. Select Your Company

A qualified garage door dealer will provide you pricing options and determine the correct door size. Make sure they are an authorized dealer, fully insured, and with a good reputation. **Note: Do not try to repair or install a garage door yourself.**



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## There is a Perfect Door for Every House

### Select a door material that works with your lifestyle and location.

- For low-maintenance in any climate, steel doors are the answer. For a timeless, handcrafted look that may require more frequent upkeep, the natural beauty and warmth of wood doors are the classic choice. For a “greener” more environmentally friendly door there are 100% recycled wood composite doors are an option that combines strength and security of steel doors with the beauty and richness of wood doors – without cracking, splitting, rotting or rusting.

### Remember that it has to fit.

- Typically, garage doors are offered in standard sizes. However, some manufacturers can be **custom-fit** for that unique garage. If you have a newer home, more than likely there is a door made to fit your garage. If you live in an older home, you should have little trouble finding a garage door that fits. If you don't have much head room – Special “low-head track” may be necessary.

### There are a wide variety of Garage door designs

- From from old world estate styles to carriage house doors and ultra modern glass designs, there is a door that fits **any architectural style**.

Garage Doors represent up to 30% of what people see when viewing your home. Your new door should create the type of first impression you desire. Work with your home's architecture and let it be a reflection of your personal style.



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## There is a Perfect Door for Every House

### ***Your color options are limitless.***

Most manufacturers offer a limited number of pre-painted steel doors. But if you want to **customize the color**, steel doors are ready to be painted with off-the-shelf exterior latex paint. Wood doors come in their natural finish, but are ready for painting or staining to your taste. Wood composite doors come primed to be painted or stained.



***The hardware accessories that are available with your garage door will most often depend on the Style of the door you select.*** Carriage house doors feature options for decorative handles and strap Hinges. The cleaner lines of a modern or traditional garage door may not need any decorative hardware.



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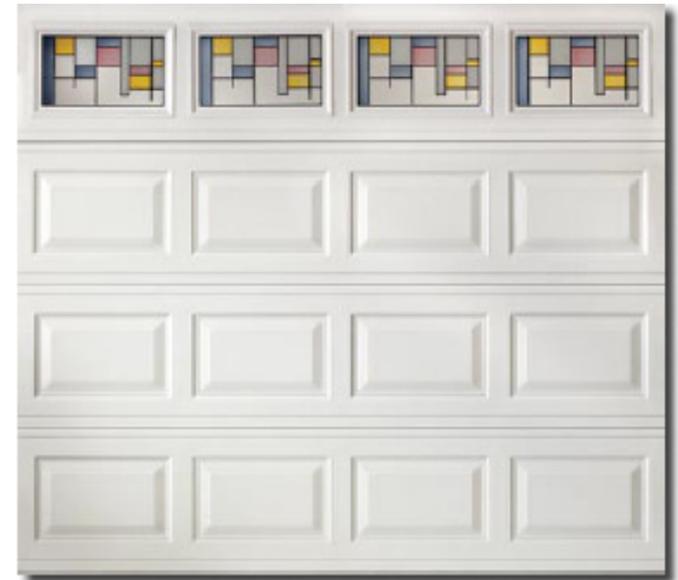
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# How to Buy a Garage Door

## There is a Perfect Door for Every House

### Why have a dark garage?

- Windows not only bring **natural light** into your garage they add another layer of style and sophistication to your garage doors.
- There are a wide variety of decorative window options from contemporary designs to ornamental faux wrought iron. From Simple insulated to Frank Lloyd Wright inspired colors and patterns.
- Window options can create a garage door that fits your style and compliments the design of your home.



STRATFORD™ COLLECTION WITH ALLEGRO DECRAGLASS™

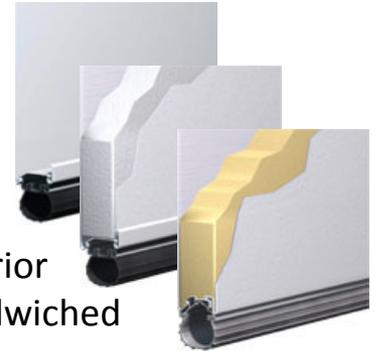


# How to Buy a Garage Door

## 1. Select the Right Material

### Steel Garage Doors

- Heavy-duty steel is the most popular type of garage door because it is durable, reliable, **low maintenance** and you can paint it to match your home's exterior decor. Steel doors also have the advantage of being the lowest cost material for a garage door and come in a wide variety of styles. Steel doors also come in three types of construction: single, double, and triple-layer. While a single-layer steel door is composed of one layer of steel, a double-layer door will have one layer of steel plus a layer of vinyl-coated insulation for increased thermal protection and quieter operation. A Triple-layer garage door is tough, energy-efficient and offers superior noise reduction. These doors offer polystyrene or polyurethane insulation sandwiched between two layers of Steel



### Wood-Composite Garage Doors

- Wood-Composite garage doors are ideal for those wanting a moderately priced garage door that can be painted to match the home's exterior. They come primed and ready to paint which means they must be painted. Wood-composite doors are made largely from recycled material, so they are considered more **eco-friendly**. Wood-composite doors are resistant to warping, peeling and splitting. They are typically priced between steel and vinyl doors.



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## 1. Select the Right Material

### Custom Wood Doors

- The beauty of natural wood is undeniable and real estate studies have shown that these doors can increase the value of your home. Wood garage doors come in a multitude of styles and materials. The most common woods used for custom garage doors are hemlock, cedar and mahogany. These doors are more expensive and require a little more maintenance but people buy them because they get to enjoy their beauty every day.

### Vinyl Garage Doors

- Vinyl garage doors tend to be durable and maintenance free however, they are available in only four colors and can not be painted. Vinyl garage doors tend to be more expensive than steel. We rarely recommend these doors.

### Fiberglass Garage Doors

- Most Fiberglass doors have an aluminum or steel frame with fiberglass sections. These doors are very lightweight, relatively maintenance-free and are resistance to salt-air making them a good choice in corrosive ocean climates. Fiberglass is a poor insulator and can break relatively easily in very cold environments.



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## 2. Select Your Style

- The style of garage door you choose is essentially a matter of personal preference. Your door is a reflection of your personality, and your individuality. Begin by taking the architectural style of your home and neighborhood into consideration. A garage door that compliments the architecture of your home will certainly add to the **curb appeal**.
- Real estate agents indicate that a new garage door can add up to 4% to the homes' value.



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### Raised Panel Garage Doors

These are the most popular style for a new garage door today. There are a variety of panels such as the raised, elongated ranch style or a flatter flush style. There are also many window designs & glass options as well.

### Carriage House Doors

- Carriage house garage doors are growing in popularity because they will change the entire look of your home and make your house the talk of the neighborhood. Spend some time looking at different styles to find what's right for you. Carriage house doors are available in nearly every type of material available on a traditional garage door now, so you're sure to find one that matches your needs.



### Architectural, Glass & Custom Garage Doors

- In addition, you may also consider doors that are unique and offer options to match your home's design. These doors can reflect styles from the old world with gorgeous woods such as mahogany, hemlock and cedar; to contemporary and modern styles in materials such as copper, aluminum or glass. We can work with you, your architects and designers to help make your vision a reality.



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# How to Buy a Garage Door

## 3. Find the Right Garage Door Company

You have a wide range of choices when it comes to purchasing a garage door.  
**Consider the following questions when selecting your company**

### Selection:

- Do they have a wide selection of door styles and openers to fit your needs?

### Experience:

- Are they specialists? Are Garage door installations and repair all they do?



### Professionalism:

- Who will do the work? Are the technicians trained and certified? Are they Company employees or do they hire sub-contractors? Are they accredited members of industry associations like IDA?

### Scheduling:

- Are they available when you need them or do you adjust to their schedule? Do they work evening and weekends? Do they offer 24/7 emergency services? Will they need multiple trips or just one visit?

### Pricing:

- Do they charge extra for emergencies or for evening or weekends appointments? Do they provide multiple options?



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## 3. Find the Right Garage Door Company

Questions when selecting your company - Continued

### Warranties:

- What is the warranty on the Door? Do they offer lifetime warranties on parts and labor too?

### Reputation:

- Are they local, licensed, bonded and insured? What is their rating with the BBB?



### Quality:

- Do they offer a variety of brand name products? How environmentally sensitive are they?

### Parts:

- What is the quality of the parts they use?
  - What is the “cycle rating” of their springs (quality springs should last 33,000 cycles or more)
  - Are Springs powder coated to eliminate rust?
  - Are rollers made with ball-bearings or are they solid plastic?



# How to Buy a Garage Door

## Additional Questions & Resources

- How important is it to you that your garage door be a design element of your home, and/or maximize it's curb appeal?
- How do you plan to use the garage space?
  - Storage, Workshop, Extra Room, “Man Cave”?
- How important is insulation and noise reduction?
  - Are there living spaces above the garage?
- How much upkeep and maintenance are you comfortable with?
  - ALL Doors & Openers should be “serviced” annually.
- How important is the quiet operation of the door and opener?
  - Belt drive openers are by far the most quiet available.

### Here are a few additional places to research and learn more.

- IDA (International Door Association) [www.doors.org](http://www.doors.org)
- Amarr Door Design Software <http://bit.ly/crVS0u>
- CHI Door Design Software <http://bit.ly/9upPzS>
- Clopay Door Design Software <http://bit.ly/bnm3Du>
- Precision Door Design Software [www.GarageDoorSeattle.com](http://www.GarageDoorSeattle.com)



We're sure  
you will  
enjoy Your  
New  
Door  
System  
for many  
years to  
come!

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## Types of Garage Door Openers

While your opener is separate from your door it is a key part of your total garage door system

### Chain Drive

- Chain Drive garage door openers use a metal chain to power the opening and closing of your garage door. Chain drive systems are the most common, but tend to be a little noisy. Chain drive openers are very reliable and economical and a good choice in very cold climates.

### Belt Drive

- Belt Drive garage door openers are extremely quiet. This type of garage door opener offers reliable, ultra-quiet and long lasting performance. They also cost a little bit more. These openers slow down for starts and stops and have more advanced security features that prevent would-be intruders from gaining access to your code. The belt drive is considered to be the best garage door opener available.

### Screw Drive

- Screw Drive garage door openers use a lifting mechanism that moves along a threaded steel rod. They are powerful units and, because they have few moving parts, require the least maintenance. This is generally the slowest moving and is not as quiet as the belt drive units. However, the latest models feature plastic lined track and increased opening speed while reducing the noise levels.

### Jack Shaft

- Jack Shaft openers are specially designed for applications where a traditional opener won't fit, such as garages with very low, cathedral or obstructed ceilings. The system allows for more overhead storage.



Thank You!

If you have additional questions or need assistance with your garage door system call us at **888-712-3667** or visit us online:

In Seattle: [www.GarageDoorSeattle.com](http://www.GarageDoorSeattle.com)  
In Spokane: [www.GarageDoorSpokane.com](http://www.GarageDoorSpokane.com)  
In Salt Lake: [www.GarageDoorSaltLake.com](http://www.GarageDoorSaltLake.com)  
In Tucson: [www.GarageDoorsTucson.com](http://www.GarageDoorsTucson.com)  
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