



How to Check Your Overhead Door

You might think that accidents and problems happen only to other people, but when it comes to garage doors, you can never be too careful. Inspecting parts once in a while won't take much of your time, but could make a huge difference in your life. Think of the main benefits:

- * You'll know whether some garage door parts are worn and will have time to plan their replacement
- * You might discover trivial problems (like a partially damaged weather seal) and discover why the area was not insulated properly
- * You might even discover why the door is making noise
- * You will find out whether the springs are sagging or not, whether there's need to make opener adjustments or if it's time to replace the rollers

By inspecting your door, you'll have knowledge of its condition. This will allow you to put things in a new perspective, get organized, put aside some money for necessary garage door repairs, or get help right away. Regular inspections also have the advantage of allowing you to act at an early stage so you can avoid problems related to your safety, security, convenience and indoor temperatures. So, let's see what you can do.

Which parts must be checked regularly?

Start by getting ready. Wearing safety glasses and gloves is important so that you won't hurt yourself. In order to avoid accidents altogether, disconnect and disengage the garage door opener but remember to put c-clamps below the bottom rollers so that the door won't collapse if the springs are weak or suddenly break.

* Check the tracks and rollers first. Since the garage door rollers sit on tracks and carry the door up and down, it's important for you to make sure there are no dents, debris or other obstacles to keep them from rolling. Check every inch of the tracks and make sure they're aligned – they should be stable against the wall and there should not be any marks around indicating that the tracks have moved from their initial position.

* Check the cables, springs and pulleys. It would be a good idea to test the tension of the springs, too. For this, you must keep the door closed and the opener disconnected. Try opening the door manually - it should go up easily. If it's not, replace the garage door

springs. If the door moves, let it rest half-way up. It might bounce a bit but should remain there. If it goes up, tension must be released. If it slides down, tension must be added. If you have extension springs, make sure the pulleys are in good condition and also check that the cables are wrapped around the drum.

* Check the weather seals and the fasteners. These little parts are extremely important. If bolts, nuts or screws are missing, parts won't be mounted properly. Make sure they're tightened well and replace them if they're rusty. Check whether the weather seals are okay or worn.

* Check the opener, sensors, wires and motor. The motor must be connected to the parts with wires, which end up at the right terminals and are not worn. If this is not the case, replace them. Make sure the lenses of the photo eyes are clean and that they are aligned. Put an obstacle under the door and make sure the door reverses. To do that, you have to connect the opener again.

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