

CLEANING AND PRESERVING YOUR NEW GARAGE DOOR

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

Your door will need regular inspection, lubrication and cleaning. The following information will help keep your door and its parts in good working order and help protect it from the elements.

WARNING! A sectional garage door is a large, heavy object that moves with the help of springs under high tension. Springs, bottom brackets, cables and supports are under high tension and can cause death or serious injuries if not properly handled. If the door is inoperable or difficult to move, **DO NOT** attempt these maintenance steps and contact your professional, [Aaron's Garage Door Company](#).

VISUAL INSPECTION AND LUBRICATING THE DOOR

Visually inspect the door at least twice per year for worn or broken parts using the checklist below. If something seems out of balance or adjustment, or you note any of the following, contact us for repair or replacement of any parts.

1. Visually inspect the door for loose or bent hinges.

WARNING! DO NOT loosen or remove the bottom bracket with the spring tension engaged. Failure to follow these instructions could allow the door to fall causing death or serious injury.

2. Visually inspect rollers for broken wheels, bent shafts or worn out bearings.
3. Visually inspect door and track supports for loose or missing bolts, screws, etc.
4. Visually inspect track for creases or bends.
5. Visually inspect door panels for signs of cracking or fatigue.
6. Spring system:

Visually inspect springs and components for damage. If the spring looks worn or broken it will need to be replaced. **WARNING! DO NOT** operate the door with a broken spring. Doing so can cause death or serious injury.

Visually inspect cables for wear at the bottom bracket button and make sure they run properly in the drums.

7. Be sure all handles are properly attached and functioning properly before lifting the door manually.

WARNING! DO NOT manually operate the door if handles are not installed. Doing so can cause finger pinch injury or amputation.

8. For doors with automatic operators:

Make sure that the operator has a working safety feature. Photo eyes should be mounted to the left and right sides of the bottom of the door opening.

9. After you have visually inspected the door and all of its components it is time to check the door operation:

With the door in the down position, detach the opener (if applicable) and lift the door manually to ensure the door is in good operating order.

The door should lift and lower easily, but not be too difficult to move or move more quickly than the force applied. Be sure to reattach the opener once you ensure the door is operating properly.

WARNING! If the door is too difficult to move, opens too quickly, or the rollers come out of the track, immediately discontinue use of the door. Failure to do so can cause death or serious injury.

10. Regularly lubricate all moving parts of the door with penetrating oil or a synthetic lubricant. This should be done at least once a year to the following parts:

Lift cables at bottom bracket button.

Lock hardware where surfaces turn or slide.

Full length of torsion spring to reduce friction between coils.

Lubricate the steel shaft of the roller.

CLEANING YOUR NEW GARAGE DOOR

Doors should be cleaned at least once a year or twice a year for harsh environments (such as coastal regions, areas with high road salt, etc.). Failure to do so may result in loss of warranty coverage. For further questions about the requirements, refer to the warranty page.

Help prevent damage (rusting) caused by foreign matter or salt adhering to the door.

Assist to restore the look of factory-applied finish by removing dirt and chalking.

Working from top to bottom of the door sections, use a well soaked cloth, sponge or soft bristle brush with either of the following solutions:

One cup of Simple Green® or other non-toxic biodegradable cleaner (less than 0.5% phosphate) into two gallons of warm water.

-OR-

Household liquid dishwashing detergent such as Dawn®. DO NOT use scouring powders or solvents when cleaning the door. If preparing to paint, see cleaning instructions under "Painting".

Rinse the door with clean water to complete cleaning and allow it to dry.

NOTE: Be sure to clean behind the stop molding on the sides and top of the garage door. **DO NOT use a pressure washer on the garage door.**

WINDOW CARE

Removing decorative inserts for cleaning and painting purposes

Decorative inserts are designed to snap in and out of the window frame and may be installed on the inside or outside of the window.

NOTE: DO NOT REMOVE SCREWS from the window frame.

The insert has tabs on each end of each leg.

To remove the inserts pull the center of the insert firmly out of the window.

Replacing the insert is the reversal of the process described for removal. The four tabs must be pressed under the lip in the window frame.

Clean glass with a mild solution of a dishwashing detergent and a soft cloth.

-For acrylic impact or decorative windows: These windows CAN ONLY be washed using a clean, soft sponge or cloth with a mild dish soap and lukewarm water. Dry with soft cloth or chamois to prevent spotting.

DO NOT use any ammoniated, abrasive or solvent-based cleaners of any kind.

DO NOT brush, scrub or scrape these windows.

After cleaning, rinse thoroughly.

CAUTION! Use care when handling decorative windows to avoid scraping or scratching the surface.

GLASS REPLACEMENT

WARNING! To avoid injury, use extreme caution in handling glass window panes. When the frame is removed, the exposed steel edge of the door may be sharp. Avoid contact with steel edges. Always wear safety glasses and gloves.

If the door is equipped with windows, and glass should need replacement, follow the steps below:

1. With someone holding the outside frame, remove screws from the inside frame retainer.
2. Pull the inside frame out of the door. Carefully remove broken or old glass.
3. Insert new glass.
4. With someone holding the outside frame, reinsert screws into the inside frame, securing glass.

PAINTING YOUR NEW GARAGE DOOR

Read these instructions completely prior to painting your door.

CAUTION! Painting your door will VOID the **paint warranty**.

REQUIRED PAINT

Your garage door can be painted with high quality 100% acrylic latex (flat, satin or semi-gloss) exterior grade paint.

CAUTION! Do not use any type of oil-based paint or alkyd modified paint.

CLEANING DOOR FOR PAINTING ONLY

Make a solution of trisodium phosphate also known as TSP using 1/3 cup of powder to 1-1/2 to 2 gallons of water. NEVER BLEND CLEANERS OR AMMONIA WITH BLEACH.

NOTE: DO NOT use this if you are not planning to paint the door.

Saturate cleaning pad (3M synthetic steel wool-gray not green) and rub with even pressure to lightly scuff surface while applying the cleaning solution over all surfaces to be painted

Rinse with clean water and sponge, changing water often.

A final wipe and rinse with clean water and sponge should be done to remove any loose material.

PRETESTING PAINT

All paints are not created equal. The following test must be performed prior to application on the entire door:

Apply paint on a small area of the door (following instructions on paint container).

Allow paint to dry and evaluate for any blistering or peeling.

Perform adherence test by applying strip of masking tape over painted area and peel back tape. Check to see that paint adheres to the door and not to tape.

NOTE: If paint shows signs of poor adherence (blistering or peeling) there may be a problem with the paint or surface preparation. DO NOT PROCEED! A new paint or further preparation of the surface is called for.

APPLYING PAINT

Follow directions on the paint container and apply it to the door. Be sure to allow adequate drying time should you wish to apply a second coat.

PAINT REPAIR

Should the door's paint finish become damaged, exposing bare metal, it will become necessary to repair this area to prevent rust from forming.

Damaged areas should be lightly sanded with medium to fine sandpaper, making sure to remove all visible red and white rust.

Wipe this area with dry, clean rag.

Coat sanded area with high quality, rust inhibiting, zinc enriched primer. This can be found at most paint or hardware stores and should be labeled for covering bare and galvanized steel.

Wait time specified on the primer's instructions before proceeding with painting the door.

AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOOR OPENERS

If you are installing an automatic garage door opener, installation of a reinforced mounting point is required. To avoid damage to your door, you ***must reinforce*** the top section of the door in order to provide a mounting point for the garage door opener to be attached.

