

## Garage Door Opener FAQs

### How do I choose electric openers?

You must be very careful when you choose electric garage door openers since they must comply with the UL 325 safety guidelines (they will probably have a label) but they must also have sufficient horsepower for your own door. The power of the motors will depend on the door's weight and average home garage doors usually need ½ horsepower.

### Are there differences among motors?

Garage door motors differ in regard to their power. ½ hp motors will be ideal for average size garage doors but heavier ones will need ¾ hp or even 1 hp. They also differ in drives. Chain drive motors are extra strong and recommended for heavy doors but they're noisy. For silent use, prefer belt drives. There's also the option of getting screw drive motors.

### How do I ensure opener safety?

All openers manufactured after 1993 must bear a label saying they are approved by UL 325 safety regulations. Sensors will reverse the door should anyone is passing under the closing panel. Though, they must be adjusted properly and tested frequently and if they are worn, they must be replaced immediately.

**Attention.** In any case, avoid standing under the open door and keep children from playing with the remote.

### How do we check sensors?

Testing the sensors is practically easy. Since your goal is to ensure that the door will be reversed if your child is running under the closing door, you should put something under the door and press the button to close it. When the safety beams see the object, they should reverse the door or they will need adjustment, repairs or replacement.

### How do the beams work?

The safety beams of the two sensors placed one opposite the other must meet under the door. They must communicate. If this communication is interrupted, the sensors activate the opener to stop and reverse the door immediately. For this reason, the sensors must be aligned perfectly.

**Attention.** Protect the sensors from direct sunlight or they might get false alarm and reverse the door when it's not necessary. The sunlight might also make them dysfunctional and they might not reverse the panel when they should and this is a major safety hazard.

### What does the opener maintenance involve?

Garage door opener maintenance involves the checking of all wires and ensuring that the motor is not too noisy. If you have chain drive opener, you must lubricate the chain. Make sure that the door opens and closes every time you press the button of the clicker or the

wall switch. The most important thing according to **Garage Door Repair Prospect Heights** is to check the sensors.

### **Should I get remotes or keypads?**

Both remote controls and keypads are excellent these days and provide safety since they use rolling codes when the signals are transmitted from the transmitter to the receiver. Though, clickers can get lost or used by kids while wireless keypads are high tech and you can keep your personal code secret. Codes are also changed easily.

### **Which brands are considered the best?**

The best manufacturers for openers and remote control/keypad systems are considered Genie and Liftmaster. Not that the other brands won't provide you with modern systems but these two are pioneers in the garage door opener market with the Genie intellicode series and the Liftmaster security plus remotes with rolling codes for extra safety. Their openers have magnificent characteristics.

### **What are the UL 325 regulations?**

The guidelines by the Underwriters Laboratories are associated with the capacity of electric operators to ensure safety for people. Although UL 325 do not certify products, they label them and approve them that they comply with the regulations, which underline the importance of all electric openers to have sensors that will reverse the door for the avoidance of people's entrapment.

### **Why electric openers must have release ropes?**

It's not accidental that the release rope is often referred to as the emergency release cord. It is used for the times of power outage. You will turn the electric door into manual by pulling the rope. It will also be vital in times of emergencies and when someone is trapped under the door due to the failure of sensors to reverse the system.

**Attention.** It's vital for the opener to have an emergency release cord even if it has a battery backup device.

### **What are the main characteristics of modern openers?**

Apart from strong motors and improved design, modern electric garage door openers have motion light detectors, timers, alerts that will notify you if someone is opening the door without your permission. They are easy to install, work with encryption technology, have safety reverse mechanisms and automatically lock the door upon closure.

### **How can we operate the electric garage door from a distance?**

Liftmaster has produced the internet getaway device, which can be used from any place in the world as long as you have internet connection. You connect to the web and through that you can have access to the special device and full control over the door. You can open and close it and you can also turn on/off the lights and program the clicker.

**Note:** Make sure the device is installed properly.

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