

This expert, unbiased garage door buying guide will help you find and buy the best garage door for your home. Includes information on costs, steel garage doors, wood garage doors, and more.

Is your garage door an eyesore or falling apart? If it is, this guide will help you replace it with the best garage door for your situation—one that suits your home, is easy to operate, and will last for years.

Not only can a new garage door provide safe, secure, and easy access to your garage, but it also can renew and refresh your property's overall appearance, particularly from curbside. A new garage door can give your home instant **curb appeal**.

Benefiting from today's technologies, the materials used for many of today's garage doors can withstand weathering for many years, including steel, wood composites, fiberglass, vinyl, and aluminum. Wood, though not as durable as most other manufactured materials, remains a favorite, too. Though each of these has its benefits, consumers overwhelmingly prefer steel and wood doors.

You'll find all of the garage door materials discussed in depth below, but first—a quick overview:

- Wood remains a classic because of its natural beauty, availability, and easy customization. But it just doesn't last as long as other materials and thus requires fairly consistent care.
- Steel garage doors have become very popular because they're strong, relatively inexpensive, and low maintenance. In addition, state-of-the-art steel garage doors do an excellent job of imitating the look of wood.
- If you're interested in one of the other materials used for garage doors, please see **Fiberglass & Aluminum Garage Doors**, below. For related information, also see: **Hurricane-Proof Garage Doors** and **Screen Doors for Garages**

What's New with Garage Doors?

In addition to the use of an increasingly broader selection of durable materials for their manufacture, garage doors have become high-tech, with high-performance insulation and energy-saving glazing, finished interior surfaces, baked-on exterior finishes and more. Some non-wood doors have been given very realistic wood grain surfaces that will accept a stain—it is hard to tell the difference between these and real wood.

In terms of style, carriage-house garage doors have become very popular because of their classic look. For a sleek, translucent contemporary look, aluminum framed doors with opaque glass panels are hard to beat.

How Much Does a Garage Door Cost?

What is a typical price for a new garage door? The answer depends on many factors. Because there is an incredibly broad range of styles and qualities of garage doors, prices are all over the place...from about \$400 for a low-end wood composite door that you must install yourself to \$9000 or more for a fully loaded high-end door with installation.

On the average, expect to pay \$800 to \$1500 for a mid-range 16-by-7-foot door, installed. Upscale garage doors average about \$2700. Remodeling Magazine's 2017 Cost vs. Value report, states that the (national) average cost of a garage door replacement is \$3304.

If you'll want an automatic door opener, add \$200 to \$300, if you have it installed at the same time as the door. These figures don't include tax or the cost of oversight by a general contractor if the job is being done as part of a bigger building project. The only way to really pin down a price is to figure out what you want and get bids—it's wise to get at least three.

The good news is that you get a solid return on your investment when you install a new garage door. According to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report, a new garage door increases the value of a home by about \$2810. The return on investment actually depends on where you live. Nationally, figure an ROI of 85%, but that number goes up to over 110% in the Western states.