




America's Favorite Garage Doors®

A large, two-story white house with a prominent front porch supported by white columns. The porch has a white railing and a set of stairs leading up to it. To the right of the porch is a two-car garage with white double doors, each featuring a multi-paned window at the top. The house has a dark roof with a stone chimney and a weather vane on top. The scene is set during the "blue hour" of dusk, with a dark blue sky and some interior lights glowing from the house. The foreground is a dark asphalt driveway.

A Buyer's Guide to
GARAGE
DOORS



Choose the right style for your home and the right materials for your budget

Historically, builders would orient houses on the lot so the garage doors faced the side. Whether this was intended to hide the utilitarian look of previous generations of garage doors, or whether the look of the doors was a response to their hidden location, is an open question. What matters is that today's garage doors don't need to be hidden. In fact, current styles, materials, and colors are designed as street-facing architectural features.

According to Justin Evans, residential products director for Clopay, America's

largest garage door manufacturer, "Lot sizes are trending smaller, so more new homes are being built with the garage doors facing front." That's supported by data from the real estate company Trulia. Driving factors behind the trend for smaller lots are higher land costs and the desire to spend less time on home maintenance. This is echoed by the new low-maintenance materials and finishes used today for garage doors.

The average price for a new garage door is about \$1000, making it a very affordable upgrade. With the range

of styles, materials, and finishes available today, Clopay's PR director Mischel Schonberg says, "Choosing a new garage door isn't limited to new construction. While it isn't something people do often, a new garage door can completely revamp the look of a house without being an extremely invasive remodeling project. In terms of return on investment at resale, a new garage door comes in at about 94%, one of the highest for any home improvement.*"

Curb appeal brings buyers through the door—the garage door.

GARAGE DOORS **ADD STYLE** TO THE HOUSE

Style is no longer limited to the classic framed-panel look. While that's still available, the carriage-house look, in which a roll-up door is built to look like an old-fashioned swing-open door, is becoming more popular. Contrasting with that style are modern doors with clean horizontal lines and sleek, narrow windows, and aluminum-frame doors with lots and lots of glass. With custom doors available, any style imaginable is possible.



Adding windows to a garage door makes it more welcoming, and allows natural light into the garage. This is even more important with front-loading garages, where the door replaces a wall that would traditionally have had several windows. A variety of glass options are available, from impact-resistant glass to textured and tinted panes. Versatile carriage-house doors complement current architectural styles.



Plank doors with horizontal lines and stacked vertical windows add modern flair.



Classic panel designs with decorative embossments are still best-sellers.



Custom arch-top doors lend an elegant air to houses.



Control your level of privacy with the choice of clear glass, mirrored or tinted panes, and more.



Composite materials, patterned from molds cast from actual wood, offer realistic looks with less upkeep.

MATERIALS AND FINISHES

When Clopay began manufacturing garage doors in 1964, wood was the traditional construction material. The downside of wood is well known, however—you need to paint or stain it regularly to keep it in good shape. Consequently, outside of the high-end mar-

ket where cedar and fir are still go-to materials, lower-maintenance options dominate.

Clopay's wood-grain composite provides the look of wood without its upkeep. Unlike wood, the composite is UV and moisture resistant. It won't rot, warp, or crack, and it

can be painted or stained. The faux wood boards are molded from actual wood pieces to replicate the natural grain pattern and texture of the species they emulate. Clopay's composite doors are available in mahogany, clear cypress, and pecky cypress.

MATERIALS **ADD STYLE** TO THE HOUSE

Design goes farther than what you see as a whole when your home is complete. It's about the detail when you're up close. Clopay's Canyon Ridge line of composite doors is made from four or five layers with a 2-in.-thick foam core, and is available in Carriage House, Modern, and Louver designs. Current design trends include lots of wood accents—columns, corbels, and doors—and Clopay's composite doors are a perfect complement.

Doors with galvanized-steel skins, factory-coated with a baked-on polyester paint, offer long-term durability. They're the most popular because of their lower cost and great variety of options. Darker colors are trending, and factory paints include reflective agents that help reduce surface temperatures. With Clopay doors, you can even match your home's paint color by providing a color sample or a Sherwin-Williams paint code when you order the door.



Canyon Ridge® garage doors offer the look of authentic wood with the practical functionality of composite materials. Durable, low-maintenance steel with Intellicore® polyurethane insulation ensures your home is well-protected, warm, and comfortable.



Once the dominant material, wood is now mainly found on custom high-end doors.



Low-maintenance steel doors offer a wide range of design and insulation options to fit any home style and budget.



Aluminum frames holding glass panels depart from suburbia, providing a sleek, urban aesthetic.



INSULATED DOORS

You might think an insulated door is something you need only in a colder climate, but that's not the case. While insulation does help to keep cold-weather garages warmer (as well as the car you park in it overnight), it's equally important in the South. Insulation helps reduce summer heat intrusion, making the garage a friendlier place during the warm months. In the South it's also common

to place mechanicals such as water heaters in the garage. When you do get a cold snap, an insulated door can mean the difference between your pipes freezing or not. In addition, the rooms adjacent to or above the garage stay more comfortable year-round.

One often-surprising benefit of insulation in a garage door is the quiet. Not only does insulation reduce street noise, it low-

ers the volume of the door's operation. And while we're talking about insulation, let's not forget weatherstripping. Clopay offers several options, including a double-flap version designed to keep out severe weather. Like the doors, weatherstripping is factory-painted for durability and color matching.

WEATHERING THE STORM

According to Evans, investigations into the widespread destruction from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 often pointed the finger at garage doors. Offering a broad surface to the wind, the doors of that time would be the weak point in the house. When the garage door blew in, the resulting pressure would take off the roof, ruining the house. That resulted in changes to the building codes, particularly in Miami and Dade County, Florida, where wind-resistance requirements are now the highest in the country.

All garage doors now sold in these markets have to meet those requirements, and the result is far less damage from hurricanes. Many areas of the country followed suit, including much of the Atlantic coast and areas of the South and Midwest where tornadoes are common. Even if it's not required by code, spending extra money on a storm-resistant door is a good investment. It may even yield extra savings on your homeowners insurance.

Many garage doors require a post be installed before a storm hits to achieve the doors' designed wind resistance. Clopay's storm-resistant doors don't need this—just close and lock the door, and it's secure.



High wind pressure on coastal homes and other inclement-weather areas has resulted in increased wind-resistance requirements for garage doors.



Clopay WindCode® garage doors offer protection against hurricane-force winds with built-in reinforcement.



SIZING GARAGE DOORS

Most single-car garage doors are 8 ft. or 9 ft. wide and 7 ft. or 8 ft. high. Double doors are usually 16 ft. or 18 ft. wide. However, a variety of sizes are available. For example, 6-ft.-wide doors are common in communities where residents move around in golf carts. It's not uncommon to see standard-size doors on

an attached garage and then a separate unit with an extended-height door to house recreational vehicles. In most cases, doors can be ordered in custom widths in 2-in. increments, and heights in 3-in. increments.

Thickness is another consideration. Thinner, 1³/₈-in. doors are available, but increasing to

a 2-in. thickness allows for more insulation and a sturdier door. Additional thickness also reduces the need for extra wind-load reinforcement and bracing to keep the door panels straight.

MAKING A DOOR OPEN

Overhead doors roll on tracks, and tracks can be configured in a variety of ways. Lower-profile versions are available for garages with minimal headroom. New-home trends include higher ceilings in the house, and also in the garage. Tracks can be installed so the door rolls straight up against the wall or follows sloped ceiling in order to maximize the usefulness of this greater headroom.

Garage doors are quite heavy, often weighing hundreds of pounds. Without springs to counterbalance them, we wouldn't be able to lift them up by hand, and garage-door openers would need to be far more powerful. The traditional extension springs that hang near the track are sized for the particular weight of the door. The most popular springs are torsion springs that mount on the wall above the door. Offering a cleaner look than extension springs, torsion springs are adjusted to a specific tension at installation based on the weight of the door.

Most doors come with 10,000-cycle springs, but higher-cycle springs can also be installed to ensure the doors operate before the spring needs to be replaced. (Each time you open and close the garage door is considered one cycle; average homeowners cycle their garage doors two to four times per day.)

Hand in hand with the tracks and springs are the openers. While openers that hang from the ceiling is the setup that most frequently comes to mind, side-mount openers are gaining popularity. Affixed on the wall next to the track, side-mount openers work with torsion springs and offer a very clean look.

Battery backup is an option on garage-door openers, and a building code requirement in some areas.



A variety of track options are available to accommodate practically any requirement—standard configurations, low head room, high lift or vertical lift—and can even be customized to follow the roof pitch.



ORDERING GARAGE DOORS

Given all the options, ordering a door can seem intimidating. Manufacturers like Clopay make the process easy.

At clopaydoor.com, there's a virtual design tool called the Door Imagination System. Upload a photo of your home, and choose from all of Clopay's options to design a door that perfectly

matches its style and color.

If you're not comfortable with designing online, contact one of our professional garage door dealers to walk you through the process. There's no need for an architect, designer, or general contractor.

It really is that simple.



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www.clopaydoor.com
1-800-225-6729