



New Door Guide

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Purchasing a new garage door can be a complicated process. There are a large number of companies who all manufacture a very wide range of door types and styles at varied prices. The purpose of this guide is to give a simple overview of the most important options available in order to assist your decision.

For ease of reading, we have listed the 4 common door types and added our views on the features and benefits of each type along with our recommendations. Our recommendations are made from our experience of installing and repairing these types of doors. We have come across most failures of each type and manufacturer and are therefore equipped to comment and recommend.

Door Types

1. Up and Over

These are the most common type of Garage Door. These doors lift over head in one piece and sit inside the roofspace of the garage. There are two versions- 'Canopy' and 'Retractable' – both look exactly the same in appearance but differ in their internal mechanisms and how far they encroach into the garage roof space. Both types are comparable in price. Canopy door mechanisms are fixed to the door itself whereas the retractable has rails that run along the ceiling into the roof space.

Pro's:

- The most cost effective type of door
- Available to fit both single and double (retractable style only) width garages
- Lightweight to operate (Forget about how heavy your old door is!)
- Secure
- Available from many manufacturers in numerous designs, styles and finishes.
- Canopy versions are less intrusive into the garage roof space

- Easily automated: Both types are easily automated during install or at a later date. Canopy doors require an additional bracket (bow arm convertor) over a retractable.

Cons:

- They open into the roof space above and therefore storage in rafters can be affected. In addition, if there are pillars or piers in the roofspace they might not fit (this would be identified in a site survey)
- Both the Canopy and Retractable doors open out into the driveway during opening (by as much as 1 metre) and therefore vehicles need to leave adequate room. If you have a short driveway this could be an issue. Roller and Sectional doors do not protrude into the driveway during opening.
- Poor sealing around edges: Whilst they will offer a good protection from rain entering your garage, there are gaps under and around the sides. In windy conditions some rain, leaves etc could be forced into the garage.
- Poor Insulation: Again, due to gaps around the edges, wind and cold air will enter the garage. If your garage is integral to your house it would be better to look at a sectional/roller type door
- Retractable type doors have a metal frame work in garage ceiling which can reduce room further for storage.

Recommendations

- These are the most popular type of door we fit
- Most suitable for single width garage doors
- For double width doors we recommend sectional doors
- We offer the Hormann/Garador range of doors as they offer an unbeatable value for money versus quality. Always ensure you get quotations for these against other manufacturers as we usually supply these for the same price other competitors quote for cheaper brands
- Available in many styles and materials--- we recommend steel doors for value. Wooden/plastic doors are available for enhanced appearance but are much more expensive.
- Can be fitted within the opening (under the lintel) or behind brickwork piers.
- They are available either 'unframed' or 'framed'. The framed versions have a matching powdercoated steel frame. The frame replaces the existing wooden frame. We always quote for framed doors---- why would you put a brand new door into an old frame that requires maintenance?

- Beware the doors advertised for £199 for self fitting in the DIY chains. These are extremely flimsy and are not cost effective.

2. Roller

These doors are comprised of lots of lightweight horizontal slats that allow the door to roll up into a tight curtain. They are nearly always supplied as an automated unit.

Pros:

- Lightweight and very compact. They do not infringe into the garage space- they are best type of door for minimising loss of garage space.
- Do not open outwards into driveway therefore vehicles can be parked right up to the door
- Are all made to measure and so can technically fit any size garage perfectly
- Available in a range of colours.
- Sealed around the sides and bottom edges therefore the garage will remain very weathertight
- Choice of thicker, insulated slats – perfect for integral garages.
- Usually fully automated within purchase price

Cons:

- The biggest drawback with this type of door is the massive difference in quality offered. BUYER BEWARE! There are a number of manufacturer's who offer very cheap deals on these door types. They use very thin door slats that are actually for use on shop window blinds (where there is a structure behind for strength). These slats are not insulated and can be very easily broken through. Furthermore, the mechanisms are very cheaply manufactured with side guides and the top roller made from plastic (we have seen some made from drainpipes!)
- Apart from Hormann/Garador, all other manufacturers use the same design where a tube motor is used inside the roll itself. These motors do not have a particularly long life in our experience (2-5 years average if used daily)
- Due to the requirement for space above the door for the slats to roll up into, this type of door is sometimes not suitable for your garage if it has low ceiling height (a site survey will determine this). In addition, we do not recommend that it is fitted under the opening lintel as the drive through height will be limited.

- Apart from doors manufactured by Hormann/Garador, all doors are usually sold automated. This is because manual operation is very slow and hardwork, requiring using a ratchet handle.
- Due to the slats rolling up, all designs are horizontal ribbed with only a choice of colour/finish available.

Recommendations:

- We recommend that this type of door is best for single width garages. For double width garages the larger width of span results in a weaker door which could be more easily damaged or broken into. For double width we recommend 'sectional' doors.
- These doors are usually sold automated, their overall price is usually around 15% higher than an automated up and over door.
- There are a large number of manufacturers of roller doors. We recommend that you are very cautious when accepting quotes and really look at the quality of what you are purchasing.
- We recommend the Hormann/Garador range. They are the best engineered product available. They are unique in that the mechanism is spring assisted so they can be used easily as a non automated product. If automated, their motors are external and will offer a much longer life in our experience.

3. Sectional

Sectional doors are the best available in terms of sturdy design, longevity and security. They are available to suit any width and size of opening. They are available in a huge range of styles, finishes and colours

Pros:

- Extremely sturdy design.
- Do not open outwards into driveway therefore vehicles can be parked right up to the door
- Can be easily automated
- These doors have the best sealing around them are therefore the best in terms of weather proof, heat loss and security.
- Available with insulated panels which are excellent for keeping garages even warmer.

Cons:

- They lift up into the roof space and also have internal frame work (like retractable up and over doors) and therefore there is a reduction in space above the door. They use a comparable amount as space as an Up and Over Retractable door

- Not much else!

Recommendations:

- Hormann/Garagdor and Novotherm supply these types of door. All of these manufacturer's offer excellent products
- We usually offer the Hormann/Garador range as we can offer the best prices on these
- An automated sectional door is usually slightly cheaper/equivalent to that of an automated roller door.

4. Barn Doors/Side Opening

These are best described as doors that open in a traditional manner like gates. They are available to open as 50:50 33:66 etc. They are particularly good for use in garages where there is very limited head height or where no part of the mechanism infringes on garage space and drive through widths etc.

Pros:

- Offer the best solution for low roof garages
- Available in many styles, colours and materials (same as for Up and Over Doors)

Cons:

- They are more expensive than most other types of door
- The doors swing out into the driveway during opening (by as much as 1 metre) and therefore vehicles need to leave adequate room. If you have a short driveway this could be an issue. Roller and Sectional doors do not protrude into the driveway during opening.
- Poor sealing around all edges
- Expensive and cumbersome to automate

Recommendations:

These tend to only be made by a few manufacturer's. They are more specialist and so probably worth discussing your requirements as a first call.

What door is best for me?

This is a difficult question to answer as you need to balance look, against useability, space requirements and price.

Garage Door Wizards offer completely free, no obligation site visits. We are always very happy to look at your garage, discuss your specific needs and then make some recommendations.

www.GarageDoorWizards.co.uk

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