



How to Make the Garage Door Weatherproof

Even though modern overhead garage doors are made to be strong and durable, they are constantly exposed to the damaging effects of the elements. This can lead to all sorts of problems with the panels and hardware. In case of condensation, moisture can build up inside the garage and cause additional problems. These are the main reasons for weatherproofing the door along with a range of benefits including reduced maintenance, repair, and energy costs. Use the following three methods for making the system fully weatherproof.

Timely Painting

Paint the wood or sheet metal panels right after garage door installation - This is necessary since even short-term exposure to moisture can cause wood decay or lead to corrosion. It is important to note that dry weather does not necessarily provide protection. This is because condensation can occur due to large differences between the temperature inside the garage and outside.

Use exterior-grade paint recommended by the door's manufacturer - This type of paint is especially formulated to be resistant to moisture and to UV damage. In this way, it will provide the highest level of protection to the wood or steel panels. Steel doors typically require latex-based paint for perfect weatherproofing. Wood doors require paint which is especially formulated for them.

Apply paint on all sections of the door - Start with the corners and the recessed areas. Use a brush of the appropriate size for this. Once you have the edges covered, use a roller to paint the central areas. The paint should dry within a day or so.

Repaint the garage door panels annually - This is essential since not even the best paint can withstand the adverse effects of the weather for too long. If the original paint turned out to be less effective than expected, you should replace it with a better product.

Weather Seals Application

Select weather seals are made from vinyl and have retainer installation - Vinyl provides extremely effective protection from moisture while being highly resistant to its damaging effects and those of ultraviolet radiation. The retainers, on the other hand, make it easy to replace the seals when they become worn-out. In fact, many of the most recent garage door models have retainer for the bottom seal pre-installed.

Install the retainers and inserts - Disengage the garage door opener first to avoid an accident. Attach the retainers to the bottom, top and sides of the door, with the use of the screws provided in the kit. Slip the inserts inside carefully once the retainers are firmly in place.

Replace the seals once they get worn-out - To find out whether the strips have become insufficiently thin, have the door fully closed and try to slip a piece of paper between each strip and the frame. If it passes through, it is time for replacement.

Adding Insulation

Choose insulation material with high R-value which matches the door's design - Fiberglass rolls have great durability and natural resistance to moisture damage. They dry quickly when they get wet and are suitable for steel doors. The rigid foam boards, which are made from polystyrene, have lower resistance to damage. However, they are the only materials which can be installed on wood and flat doors. Check carefully the R-value of the product as it depends both on the nature of the material and its thickness.

Add the insulating material using the appropriate materials and tools - Put safety gloves, goggles and a face mask on. Cut the rolls or boards into appropriate pieces. Attach the insulating material to the panels firmly with the use of fasteners or tape.

Check the tension of the garage door spring - This is important because the insulating material may increase the weight of doors significantly. If this is the case, you must have the spring readjusted.

Use all of these methods for weatherproofing the garage door together for best results.

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