



## How to Maintain Metal Garage Door Parts

While the opener automates the movement of the **overhead garage door**, the metal parts are responsible for bearing its weight and directing it in the proper position. If something goes wrong with them, the whole system will begin to malfunction or fail completely. That is why they require proper maintenance. Learn how to provide it.

### Timing and Preparation

Provide maintenance to the metal **garage door parts** twice a year - This rule applies to the panels and opener as well. It is best to do it in the spring and in the fall to ensure that the system will operate properly in all weather conditions.

Get all necessary tools - You will need a double-sided step ladder for accessing the **overhead door spring** or springs and the top sections of the tracks. You should also use safety gloves.

Prepare the door - You must disengage the opener to prevent an accident. The door must be in closed position. If required, you should open it manually.

### Complete Inspection

Begin with the springs - Check them for rust, wear and tear and deformation. In case of extension springs, you should also inspect the safety cables which run through them.

Move on to the **garage door cables** - Inspect them for fraying and for minor cuts. Pay close attention to the area at the bottom bracket. Ensure that the cables are in their correct position.

Take care of the tracks - All parts which make up each track must be properly aligned. Confirm that the bolts which hold them are perfectly tight. Watch out for obstacles to the rollers and for rust at the bottom ends of the tracks. In case of bent track, timely repair is required.

Inspect the **garage door rollers** - Watch out for twisted and damaged stems. Look at the bearings to see whether they have worn out. Check the wheels for deformation and damage.

Check the hinges carefully too - If there are any loose ones, you should tighten them right away. Bent hinges must be replaced timely.

### Effective Cleaning

Remove dirt with a damp cloth - Dirt usually gets stuck in the **garage door tracks** which are perfectly smooth so this removal method should work just fine. You must not use any detergents. You should dry the tracks immediately after cleaning.

Remove stubborn dirt and rust with a solvent – Try this with a home-made solution such as vinegar or lemon juice first. If this does not work, use a citrus-based product which is safe. Check to see if the door's manufacturer recommends a particular product. If the layer of rust is quite thick, you should first try to scrape off as much of it as possible with the use of steel wool.

#### Proper Lubrication

Use lubricant which is recommended by the door's manufacturer or the manufacturer of the hardware if it has been replaced - The suggestions can vary considerably from one brand to another. Sometimes, light household oil is recommended. In other cases, it is possible to use a silicon-based spray. The important thing is for the lubricant not to be too sticky.

Apply a thin layer of the lubricant to all moving metal parts - These include the torsion spring, the cables at the bottom bracket, and the bearing of the sheaves. Metal rollers require lubrication as well. Lubricant must never be applied on nylon rollers. The same applies to the tracks. Make sure that the parts are perfectly clean before applying the product. You should add only a thin layer. Avoid applying too much lubricant.

If you notice any issues with the parts during routine maintenance, ensure that proper **garage door repair** will be provided without delay.

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