



The Ultimate Garage Door Buying Guide



CONTENTS

- 03** Should You Really Care About Your Garage Door Purchase?
- 04** What Are The Most Common Materials?
- 05** Has The Technology Changed Much?
- 05** How Much Should I Pay For My Door?
- 06** What Are The Different Types Of Garage Door Styles?
- 09** What Is The Process To Get A New Garage Door?
- 10** Any Questions I Should Make Sure To Ask Before I Make A Decision?
- 12** Summary: Trust the Professionals



WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

This guide has been designed to answer the most common questions when it comes to buying a garage door for your home. By the end, you should not only have a better idea of the different types, but also which one sounds right for you.



“...The garage door constitutes about 30 percent of your home’s front aspect and curb appeal so it’s an obvious choice to take time when deciding how your garage door should look...”

SHOULD YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR GARAGE DOOR PURCHASE?

Garage doors come in many different shapes and sizes and are made to measure. Their functions can also range widely, from being a cosmetic concealment all the way to a form of security. Most of the time, they can be categorized to a few simple styles, but each of these styles and materials available can provide an incredible cosmetic transformation to a home.

The garage door constitutes about 30 percent of your home’s front aspect and curb appeal, so it’s an obvious choice to take time when deciding how your garage door should look.

It’s not just about the appearance however, as garage doors also offer an extra layer of security to the home. It is also important to note that windows in garage doors do not provide enough of a barrier to those privy to popping windows out and reaching the manual release cord.

Choosing a garage door is not a one-size-fits-all situation, but it’s not a terrifying ordeal either. We’ll explore some of the more important features you should look for when buying your new garage door.



Photos top to bottom:
Fiber Glass
Steel Door
Wood Look Door

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON MATERIALS?

PROS		CONS
STEEL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable, stronger than wood or aluminium • Sensibly priced • Low maintenance (not affected by weather, cracking or warping) • Comes in various looks and convincing textures (e.g. wood) • Can be powder coated • Full Colorbond colour range available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won't fare well to impact (dents from footballs, basketballs) • Can corrode or rust in coastal areas (best to powder coat brackets and hinges)
WOOD LOOK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the strength of steel • Can be hand painted • Better at avoiding splitting and rot than wood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive than standard Colorbond colours
FIBERGLASS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be translucent to allow lighting from outside • Can mimic various materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can turn yellow over time • Not commonly used these days • Material can break easily • Poor insulation • Usually restricted to one piece tilt style
VINYL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various vinyl wraps available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive Limited colour availability • Concerns of fading, peeling and flaking in Australia's harsh weather conditions
ALUMINIUM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighter than steel • Has improved over the years to be sturdier than before • Comes in textures and finishes like: Wood Look, Honeycomb, Perspex, Aluminium Composite • Can be cladded with virtually any material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive
WOOD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional, natural styles and materials for curb appeal • Better insulation than steel • Can use virtually any wood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need regular maintenance (every 1-2 years) • Can be expensive • Can rot or warp over time in extreme temperatures • When wet can add weight and stress to the motor and springs

HAS THE TECHNOLOGY CHANGED MUCH?

Doors have come a long way since the days of manual rollers and simple mechanisms. With the advancements made in robust and insulated materials, as well as the affordability of Internet of Things (IOT), we're now seeing even smarter technology not only to improve safety, but also for greater convenience. Here are just a couple of interesting additions to the door world.



FINGER SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

Some companies are able to offer panels that work in a ball joint motion, not vice motion which allows the door to be opened without fingers getting trapped inside. The trapping of fingers can cause serious injuries, so if you feel this is especially important for large and little fingers of the house, ask about it. This won't be available on all types of doors and most custom doors are generally not finger safe.



WI-FI CAPABILITY

There are motors in the market that allow for Wi-Fi connectivity, such as the Merlin MYQ Commander. This gives extra control and peace of mind if you're away from the home and unsure whether the door is open or not. You can also set a timer for when the door will open and close. However you can convert most motors with a Bluetooth unit that allows you to open your door from your smart phone, usually costs around \$300.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR MY DOOR?

Given there are a lot of choices in regards to style and type, prices will obviously vary from door to door. On **average you should expect to pay between \$1,900-\$2,200 for a single sectional door, and \$2,200-\$2,900 for a double sectional door**. There are also extra costs to take into consideration, such as the kind of material, technology, door type, windows and other upgrades available.

If you find that there are companies selling lower than these prices, you should ensure that the company has a strong reputation and reliable history. Read reviews to see how those companies handle after-purchase customer queries, or if there's been conflict between the company diverting maintenance issues towards the manufacturer.

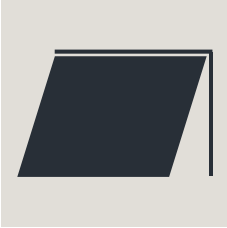
While it's a simple mistake to make, you should not assume a single door will be half the price of a double door. Remember the only difference is the amount of materials being used.

There are still standard costs relating to the motor, manufacturing, labour, parts, hinges and installation. These different costs should be included in the total quote of your garage door. Ensure that you're being quoted on the cost of doors as well as the labour and installation costs.

You should also service your garage door every 12-18 months. The cost of this should be in the \$175-\$220 area (including GST). Once you are set up your investment will raise your homes curb appeal and house value for years to come.



WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GARAGE DOOR STYLES?



TILT DOORS

Tilt doors are not as common nowadays. The entire door opens by tilting back and up to the roof using torsion springs. There are less moving parts than other doors, and the single panel allows for more creative control.

There are downsides however, including the need for enough clearance to allow for swing space in front of the door, allowing enough clearance along the roof of the garage, as well as the springs being under high tension. Some companies provide parts for these types of doors.



ROLLER DOORS

A roller door is made of a steel curtain that slides up and rolls up into a bundle at the top of the door. Because of the way that roller doors are designed and function, this option is only suitable if you have enough headspace above your garage door. Approximately 350 to 400 mm headroom is required as opposed to 250 mm for sectional doors.

Roller doors are generally used for sheds, garage doors, carports, store-fronts and warehouses. The standard profile of a roller door is a 0.4 mm in thickness to allow the entire door to be rolled up. The guides built into the sides are roughly 30 mm wide on each side. This allows the door to easily glide up and down.

CUSTOM MADE DOOR

If you have a specific profile, colour, material, feature, or style in mind, then standard garage doors may not satisfy your requirements. That doesn't mean it's impossible to make your own vision a reality. When talking to a company, ask about what customisation they offer. Reputable companies will have access to a wide range of colours and appearances such as Mini-Orb, Perspex, Makrolon, Western Red Cedar, acrylic, perforated aluminium and Aluminium Composite.

Each type of insert has its benefits. For example, picking a mesh insert offers free airflow and lets some light in. You can also mix and match insert types for more visual impact.



SECTIONAL DOORS

Sectional garage doors consist of several large horizontal panels hinged together. They open by getting lifted up and moving into the space below the ceiling.

Sectional doors suit modern and new homes well and a wide range of window styles can be added to them. These doors feature a pinch resistant technology that prevents fingers from getting caught in between the panels.

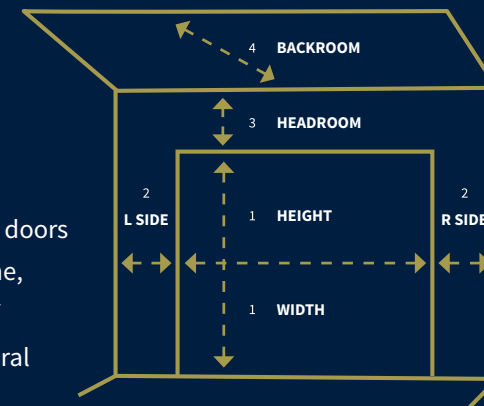
Gryphon garage doors offer a variety of sectional doors such as Mediterranean, Slimline, Flatline, Ranch, Heritage and Wood Look. All doors are made of the highest-grade quality steel and come with a 12-year structural warranty.



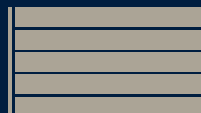
SPACE REQUIREMENTS: SECTIONAL DOORS

- 250 mm Headroom
- 125 mm Side Room each side

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SLIMLINE (RIBLINE) More pronounced horizontal lines.



MEDITERRANEAN (FINELINE) Less pronounced horizontal lines.



FLATLINE Large, heavier gauge steel panels with no horizontal lines (other than the joins). Ideal for a clean modern finish.



RANCH Feature large rectangles approximately 1.2m wide. Ideal for windows.

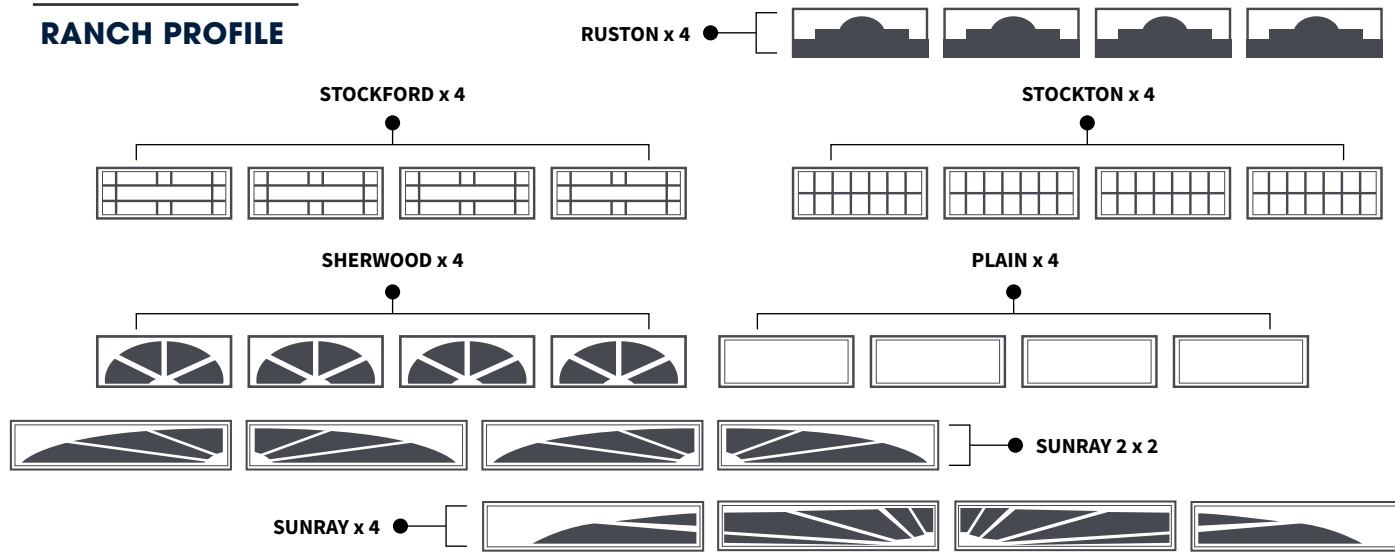


GARAGE WINDOWS Sectional doors work well with windows inserts. There are a wide variety of window types you can pick from for your door.

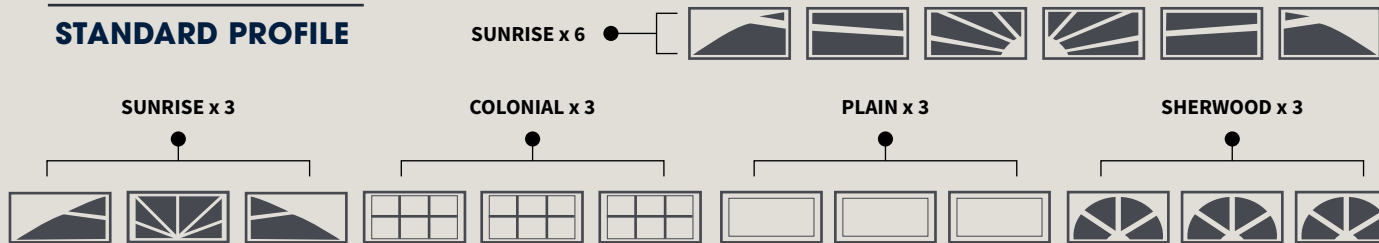


HERITAGE Feature smaller rectangles approximately 0.5m wide. Ideal for smaller windows or single sized doors.

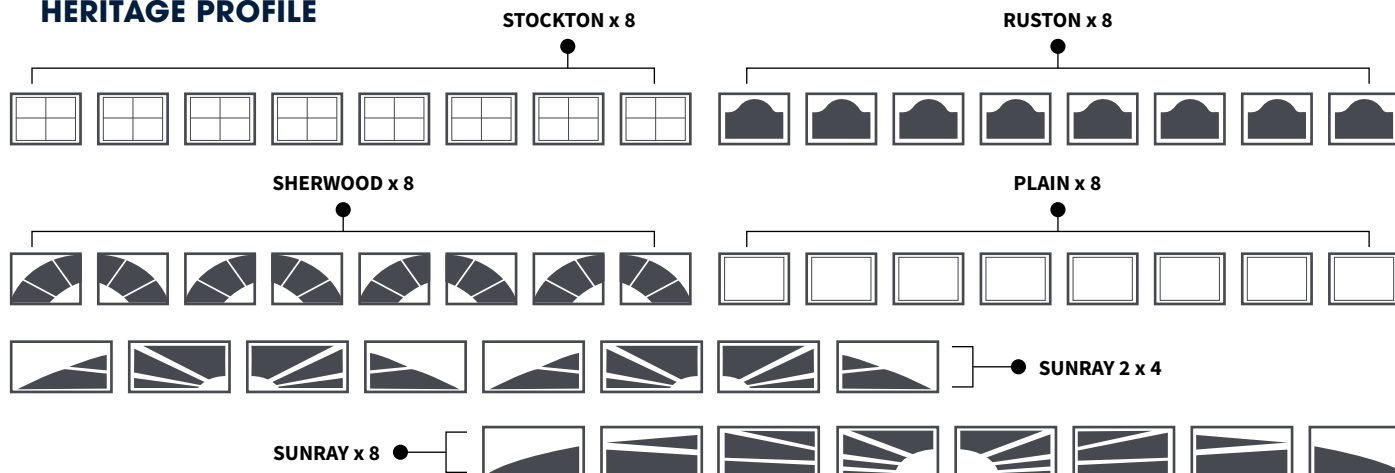
RANCH PROFILE



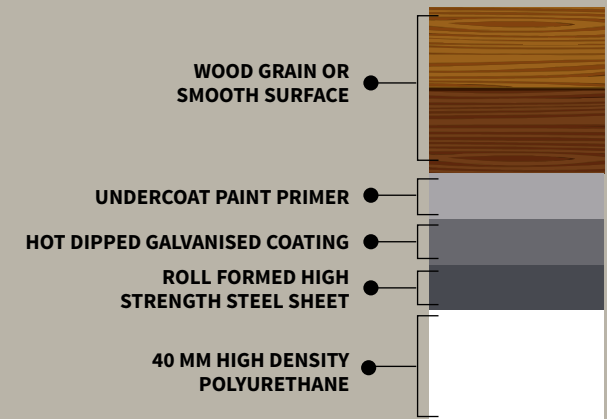
STANDARD PROFILE



HERITAGE PROFILE



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION INSULATED DOOR PANEL



INSULATED DOORS

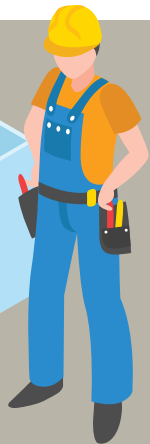
If you are using your garage as a workshop or extra room, an insulated option is the best choice to ensure good sound control and protection from the outdoor elements. Because a standard Australian garage door occupies at least a third of the surface area of a home, if not insulated properly temperatures of the house can fluctuate.

Polyurethane insulation is one of the most effective insulation materials available and is as much as 30 percent more effective than Polystyrene insulation. These panels can reduce up to 90% of this temperature exchange. Insulated panels also help to reduce street noise and are dramatically stronger than a standard single sheet garage door.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO GET A NEW GARAGE DOOR?

While there are a number of choices to be made in terms of the design and functionality of your garage door, the process of buying one is fairly simple when done with a professional. It should follow these three steps:

1



On-site visit by a consultant, with a quote offered.

2

Order of the door made with your exact specifications.

3

Installation of the door roughly 2-3 weeks later.



There shouldn't be much more to it. One important piece of information is to beware of companies that give quotes over the phone. Accurate quotes can only be made after a proper on-site measure. Measurements, design and materials all vary.

In the short-term it may seem a speedier process to find the best price initially, however in some cases a low quote changes to a surprising cost hike once the proper quote is written up. It is best to avoid any arguments altogether and find a company that offers the measure and quote to you on the day.

Lastly be wary of people who email the quote at a later time or write the price on the back of a business card. This is not the professional way to conduct business and doesn't build trust between a potential customer and company.

If all goes well, you should be ready to have your brand new garage door in no time!

ANY QUESTIONS I SHOULD MAKE SURE TO ASK BEFORE I MAKE A DECISION?

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? THAT'S NORMAL. WE'VE COMPILED SOME OF THE BEST QUESTIONS WE'VE HAD TO ANSWER TO HELP MAKE THE DECISION EASIER.



HOW LOUD SHOULD THE DOOR BE WHEN OPENING AND CLOSING?

Noise is unavoidable when it comes to steel and moving parts, however if your door is properly maintained and serviced – roughly every 12-18 months – the door should operate reasonably quietly. Another way to lower the noise of a garage door is by having a belt drive motor instead of a chain drive.

HOW HIGH-MAINTENANCE IS THE DOOR?

A wooden garage door requires the most attention. Sectional doors should be serviced every 12-18 months. It is particularly important that the motor and springs are checked, retensioned and recalibrated to avoid costly breakdowns occurring. Hinges can be given a light Silicone spray however we do not recommend using CRC or WD-40 for this.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I LOSE MY CONTROLLER?

Simply contact the company you bought the door from as they will carry the genuine compatible handsets. We recommend avoiding online replacements they are often faulty, low range and not worth the money you pay.

WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE FOR PAYMENT OF A DOOR?

Some companies will ask for a 50 percent deposit however 30 percent is acceptable. Always pay the balance after installation. This will give you the chance to make sure the door is in working order and fits well before final payment is made. All companies require balance upon completion unless an account has been negotiated. Accounts are normally reserved for builders and high volume regular clients.

CAN I REPAINT THE DOOR?

We do not recommend repainting Colorbond doors as this will void the warranty. Wood doors should be fine, granted you do the necessary prepping before painting.

WHAT IS THE WARRANTY?

Warranties vary depending on the market and the quality of the product supplied. The best genuine warranty is 12 years on the door, and 10 years on the motor. Your best bet is to make sure the company you deal with is reputable and has been around for at least as long as warranties it offers.

HOW WOULD AN ISSUE BE RESOLVED IF MY GARAGE DOOR IS MALFUNCTIONING?

Your warranty period usually comes with a 12-month installation warranty. You should not accept anything less. There may be call-out fees that are levied, but in most cases the repairs should be covered. Reputable companies will normally waive this fee unless it's a fault caused by incorrect use. Be sure to ask about the proper usage and maintenance procedures once your door has been installed so this won't occur.

WHAT IF I'M CAUGHT IN A SELLER VERSUS MANUFACTURER FEUD AND THEY COULD BLAME IT ON ONE ANOTHER?

This is a common practice with 'on sellers'. On sellers are companies that sell doors and motors on behalf of other manufacturers and do not personally stand behind the warranties they offer on the products they supply. This leaves the client in a position of having to deal with a manufacturer of a product they have not directly supplied to you.

This situation can be avoided if you ensure the company that supplies your door, motor, installs and services the door, is the company you purchased the door from. Make sure you only buy from a reputable company with a good track record who offers all the above.

WHAT ABOUT MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS?

There are clauses in contracts designed to protect both the company and the client. It is generally an accepted agreement that your warranty may be void if your door isn't serviced every 12-18 months. Some companies are flexible with this, however the clause is in place to ensure your door will run smoothly for years to come.





TRUST THE PROFESSIONALS

Now that you've been introduced to all the various aspects that go into buying a garage door for your home, you should be all set. So, the final question remains: Who do you go to?



ONE

Go with a company that you know and trust and has been in the marketplace for an extended period of time.



TWO

Do your research and check reviews, make sure the company has been around longer than the warranties they provide, and look for the best warranties and best back up service.

It is always a smart thing to do, don't be frightened of paying a little bit more for a quality product. Remember

'Quality is forever, long after price is forgotten'



FOR A FREE QUOTE

**GET IN TOUCH WITH US AT 1300 959 554 OR SEND US
AN EMAIL AT SALES@GRYPHONGARAGEDOORS.COM.AU**

Over the last 25 years Gryphon Garage Doors has dedicated itself to providing clients with the quality, reliability and service that Gryphon clients have come to expect. Gryphon is proud to be an Australian family-owned business that designs, sells and installs quality products, and services and maintains your door throughout its life.

An extensive range of garage door designs are available including sectional, roller, wood look, insulated and custom made doors. Gryphon Garage Doors can assist you when choosing the colour and style to suit your design preference. Installing a new modern door on your home can completely change the look of your home for a small price when compared to a full renovation.

Gryphon Garage Doors has fully trained technicians on hand to help with any technical questions and enquiries. We have a Frequently Asked Questions page to help you with some basic enquiries regarding Service and Maintenance of your Garage Door.

Gryphon design and install Quality Garage Doors to suit client requirements. Custom made doors can be designed using your choice of materials and design. See some of our custom made doors we have made and installed on our website:

www.gryphongaragedoors.com.au

Gryphon's Design Consultants are always available to come to your home and discuss the best options to suit you and your home. Our staff are professional and experienced consultants who do not engage in pressure sales techniques – we want our customers feeling confident on the choices they make and become clients for life.