



How to Choose Insulated Garage Doors

Choosing a new garage door is hard enough, let alone choosing an insulated one. You have to decide between types, sizes, materials, openers, springs and colors anyway, but now you will have to do some extra research on insulation materials. It might be a hard task, but it's worth spending time on discovering several things about insulated doors. If your garage is attached to your house, getting an insulated overhead door instead of a regular one is smart because of the many benefits.

In spite of what most people think, insulated doors are not only ideal for cold weather. The insulation materials might keep chilly air waves from getting in, but they also keep the heat from going out. Similarly, in the summer they help by the keeping heat out and the indoor environment cool. Since insulated doors consist of two or more layers, they are much more durable than if you had only one layer. They are resistant to dents but also attempted forced entries. They are heavier constructions without necessarily weighing more and for this reason it's not always required to change your garage door springs, too. Another advantage is that they are noise insulators and that's important for your daily life.

3 things to keep in mind when selecting insulated doors

Deciding on insulation materials is entirely different from choosing the design, type, door material and whether you need to change garage door parts or not. No matter which door you choose, it can be insulated. The question is which insulation materials you will choose and of which r-value the door will be! Let's see what you should do and what things you should pay attention to:

- * When manufacturers give information about their insulated doors, they often refer to the inner part of the door and not the entire panel. So, if they say that the door has insulation value r-15, they might be referring to the energy efficiency of the specific insulation material used for the particular door and not the whole door. This will make a difference to your energy efficiency and so you will want to clarify the details with the manufacturer.

- * Choose the right r-value. This is the value indicating the thermal resistance of your door. It's good to get between 12 and 15 although it will also depend on the material of the door and the insulation material you will select. Wood doors are often insulated with r-value reaching up to 6 and that might not be enough for you. Of course, you can choose steel garage doors with wood skin. If you want it to be extra durable, choose steel panels with low gauge. Don't forget though that insulated doors have at least two or three layers and that's why they are stronger.

* Choose the right insulation materials; there are two to choose from. Think of the polystyrene insulation as a rigid material stuck between the panels. It just sits there and is not attached to the layers. Polystyrene r-value goes as high as r-10. Polyurethane offers much higher energy efficiency since r-value goes over r-12. This insulation material is injected among the layers, it spreads all across the void between the layers and adheres to them. So, it bonds well, insulates better and makes the door more durable.

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