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How to Clean the Garage Door and Opener

It is a fact that the **overhead garage door** is the largest automated system in your house. It deserves appropriate care so that it remains in optimal condition at all times. Cleaning is one of the major maintenance tasks you have to perform on a regular basis. Find out how to do it properly for ensuring safe and effective operation and for lowering the risk of damage.

Panel Cleaning

Clean the door on a warm and dry day - In this way, it will dry quickly without any effort on your part. You should know that proper drying is extremely important since moisture or chemicals remaining on the **garage door panels** may cause problems.

Choose the cleaning solution and tools depending on the make of the panels - For cleaning steel doors, you will need household detergent which contains trisodium phosphate, a sponge, and a cleaning pad made from synthetic wool. Properly painted wood doors can be also be cleaned with this set of materials and tools. If the wood panels have not been treated in any way, apply soft dry or slightly damp cloth for removing dirt. For **glass garage doors**, use a cleaner which is especially formulated for glass. You will also need a set of tools for cleaning windows which includes a soft cloth tool that does not scratch the surface and a squeegee.

Clean the panels carefully from both sides - You should start by removing any cobwebs and bigger pieces of debris with a brush or a broom. Then you should perform the required cleaning procedure. For cleaning painted panels, dissolve a third of a cup of detergent into two gallons of water, and use the sponge to remove the dirt. Stubborn dirt accumulations should be scrubbed with the synthetic wool pad. After removing all the dirt, use fresh water for rinsing. Use the sponge to remove all traces of dirt, detergent, and leave the door to dry. When you clean glass panels, you need to spread the cleaner with the soft cloth tool, and wipe it with the squeegee.

Hardware Cleaning

Use a cleaning rag and a brush for dirt removal - You should clean all garage door parts which have accumulated dirt. The list includes the **garage door tracks**, brackets, and hinges. Since tracks usually accommodate the largest amount of stubborn dirt, apply brake cleaner to them for best results.

Use a solvent for rust removal - Apply the product carefully and rub the parts clean. If the rust is too stubborn, apply steel wool first. This material is particularly useful for scraping off thicker rust accumulations. Just remember to be extra careful when working with the different metal parts.

Opener Cleaning

Remove dirt from the rail with the use of a cleaning rag - Remember to disconnect the opener from the power supply and to disengage it from the door for safety purposes. Work your way through the upper side of the rail to remove dirt. You should also pick up a good amount of grease especially if you have a **chain drive garage door opener**. In this case, you benefit from moving the chain to the side while cleaning to produce the best result.

Clean the motor unit with soft damp lint-free cloth - If you see cobwebs hanging on and around the unit, remove them first. Wipe the unit gently with the soft cloth to remove any dust. If you notice more stubborn dirt accumulations, apply white vinegar and alcohol to remove them.

It is best to clean the automatic garage door system twice every year. It is important to clean the panels thoroughly before the annual repainting.

Garage Door Repair Rosemead

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