

How To Choose The Right Garage Door For Your Residence In Western New York



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1. Introduction

Choosing the right garage door(s) is a major decision for most homeowners. After all, your new garage door(s) will constitute a reasonable investment (some people estimate about 1% of the value of your home) and they will certainly have an impact on the appearance and curb appeal of your home for many years to come. Additionally, garage door technology has changed significantly over the past few years, and since most people do not buy doors very frequently, they are usually unaware of the latest options available to them and the current most important factors that they should consider.

This article will bring you up to date with the latest options in garage door technology, and I hope that it will help you understand the most important factors that you need to consider when choosing the best garage door(s) for your home.

The 3 most common initial questions that visitors to our Garage Door Showroom ask us are:

- **Q1** - *What Are The Best Garage Door Style & Color Choices For My Specific Property?*
- **Q2** - *How Long Will It Take For The Doors To be Delivered And Fitted?*
- **Q3** - *How Much Will The New Garage Doors And Their Installation Cost?*

Q1 - When you consider the potential for different window placements in your garage door panels, there are literally hundreds of door styles for you to choose from. Most manufacturers offer a range of colors, but you are not restricted to those, as we can easily custom paint your door in any color you want. We offer you 2 *Online Garage Door Design Tools* from our website, and you can [Visit Our Showroom](#) any time during normal business hours to consult with our experts.

Resources:

Garage Garage Door Design Tool - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Door-Creator-G.aspx>

Haas Garage Door Design Tool - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Door-Creator.aspx>

Contact Adams Door Company - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Contact-Adams-Door.aspx>

Q2 - We carry a selection of garage doors in stock, but considering all the different design and color choices we will probably have your doors made to order. Once you place your order plan on it taking about 2-4 weeks for delivery and installation.

Q3 - So now let's get to what is probably the biggest issue burning in your mind:

How Much Will My New Garage Doors And Their Installation Cost?

2. The Main Factors That Determine Garage Door & Installation Cost

We can certainly install high-quality garage doors in WNY for less than \$1,000 each, but there are many important factors that you need to consider and these all have a significant impact on your total investment!

The **6 Main Factors** that impact the total price of your installed garage doors include:

- Garage Door Size & Number Of Doors
- Garage Door Panel Material & Insulation (R) Value
- Garage Door Hardware Quality
- Garage Door Panel Design & Color
- Optional Garage Door Accessories Like Windows
- Do You Need Or Want A New Garage Door Opener?

2.1. Garage Door Size & Number Of Doors

Larger doors obviously cost more, and the more doors you need the higher the total cost will be.

We obviously have to consider the exact height and width requirement of each door that you wish to order. However, you cannot simply assume that "twice as large = twice the cost" because (depending upon the specific door design) wider doors may require addition of extra reinforcement to provide sufficient strength and rigidity.

2.2. Garage Door Panel Material & Insulation (R) Value

2.2.1 Garage Door Construction Overview – Before we get into a detailed discussion of garage door materials, let's just consider the big picture. The most popular modern garage doors are typically constructed from multiple panels with outer skins made from either Steel or Aluminum. These panels may be insulated with varying foam thickness to provide varying degrees of thermal resistance (R), or they may be uninsulated.

By far, the most popular garage door panels that we sell in Western New York are constructed with **Steel skins embossed with a woodgrain finish**, and a core of high-pressure injected foam insulation offering **R16 thermal resistance**. The foam bonds directly to the steel skin to provide a rigid high strength panel that can perform well throughout the coldest winters and hottest summers here in WNY.

Comparable Aluminum skin panels are typically about 10% more expensive. However, if you prefer to purchase a smooth steel door (with thicker steel sheet, but without the embossed woodgrain pattern) you may expect to pay about 50% more than the price of a steel door with embossed woodgrain.



Garaga North Hatley R16 Insulated Steel Door

ALL attached garages are indirectly-heated from adjacent or overlying rooms!

If you have an attached garage, a more highly insulated door (higher R value) and a quality weatherstripping system should be considered a very worthwhile extra investment, especially if you have living space above your garage. Garage Door Insulation can help you save a very significant amount on your energy bills, typically providing a payback in just 1 or 2 years. Obviously, this assumes a properly sized and installed door that minimizes heat flow by convection, conduction and radiation.

Next, let's discuss the pros and cons of the different garage door construction materials.

2.2.2. Wooden Garage Doors - are still available. However, compared to modern garage doors (made from other materials), wooden garage doors require significantly more maintenance (and are susceptible to rotting, cracking, warping and damage by insect activity). They are also relatively heavy (requiring a more powerful opener to move them), and they offer little thermal insulation (which can significantly increase your energy bills, especially in our Western New York climate). High-quality wooden garage doors are also relatively expensive (depending upon the wood type and finish that you choose).

We do not recommend choosing wooden garage doors for use in WNY, there are better options available.

2.2.3. Fiberglass Garage Doors and Vinyl Garage Doors - are typically built on a steel frame, and may be thermally insulated. The synthetic panels can be embossed with a wood grain pattern to look like real wood doors, but with lower weight and without issues like rotting, cracking, warping, or insect damage. Although fiberglass or vinyl doors generally offer superior performance compared to wooden garage doors, they do have significant disadvantages compared to other modern garage doors. Vinyl garage doors become brittle in our extreme WNY winters, often leading to cracked and broken panels. Fiberglass doors require clear coating every 1-3 years (depending upon UV exposure) and are relatively expensive.

We do not usually recommend choosing fiberglass or vinyl garage doors for use in WNY, there are better options available.

2.2.4. Aluminum Garage Doors - are built using smooth anodized aluminum panels with or without thermal insulation. Many modern high-quality aluminum garage door designs rely on an insulating foam core as a structural member (rather than relying on an internal framework). This design increases the doors' thermal performance and durability while decreasing weight and production cost, thereby allowing for production of high-performance high-quality doors at a more reasonable price.

NOTE THAT *Contemporary Aluminum Frame Garage Doors* are constructed with completely different components.

Contemporary Aluminum Frame Garage Doors - are constructed using aluminum frames with anodized aluminum panels, and often incorporate glass panels to allow for highly attractive contemporary designs. These doors are light, durable, and available with a wide range of design and finish options. However, they offer relatively little thermal insulation (compared to insulated steel doors) making them less well suited to our WNY climate, and they are also relatively expensive.

Even if the contemporary style of aluminum doors is your primary priority, we do not normally recommend aluminum doors for use on attached garages in Western New York. Instead, we advise you to consider the latest insulated steel doors that are now available with contemporary styling.

Haas 360 Aluminum Garage Doors



2.2.5. Insulated Steel Garage Doors - are built using coated steel panels that are embossed with a realistic woodgrain texture, and are also generally available with a large range of panel designs and finish options. Cheaper steel doors are available without thermal insulation, but most modern high-quality steel garage door designs actually rely on integrated *Polyurethane Insulating Foam* as a structural member (rather than relying on an internal framework). This design increases the doors' thermal performance and durability while decreasing weight and production cost, thereby allowing for production of high-performance high-quality doors at a surprisingly low price compared to all other door material options.

High-Quality Steel Garage Door Construction (Courtesy of Garaga Doors)

- 1. Mechanically Interlocked Joints** make sections very strong and also feature a triple-contact weather seal to completely eliminate air infiltration.
- 2. Wooden End Blocks** offer rigidity and durability at section ends and are more effective than metal framework in reducing heat transfer between interior and exterior steel panels.
- 3. Embedded 14-Gauge Reinforcement Plates** allow solid attachment of hinges, handles, and the door operator bracket to the door panels.
- 4. Heavy-Duty Vinyl Door Bottom Seal** stays flexible through the coldest WNY winter temperatures to ensure superior weatherproofing in all seasons.
- 5. High-Pressure Injected Polyurethane Foam Panel Interior** provides a high level of rigidity to the door panels, with R16 thermal resistance in 1.75 inch thick Standard + Model Doors, or R12 thermal resistance in 1.375 inch thick Acadia 138 Model Doors. Optional R10, R6.6, and uninsulated panels are also available.
- 6. 24 Gauge Steel Garage Door Panel Skins** feature corrosion-resistant layers and a deeply embossed Woodgrain Surface. Up close or at a distance, this flawless and very refined embossed woodgrain finish provides an authentic look of real wood doors.
- 7. Wide Choice of Optional Garage Door Windows** (many styles & colors available). Interior and exterior window frames are molded from UV-resistant synthetic resin without joints or any visible screws, providing a weather-tight seal and excellent durability.



Insulated Embossed Woodgrain Steel Garage Doors are ideal for most residential applications in WNY, where the garage is attached to the home so that the garage space is heated (either directly using heaters, or indirectly by leakage of heat from the house). So we strongly recommend insulated steel garage doors for attached garages. In fact, in most residential attached garages the energy savings that insulated steel garage doors offer, add up year over year and will provide a rapid return on your investment. Insulated steel doors are relatively light and extremely durable, requiring very little maintenance and supreme resistance to all the issues faced by wooden doors or vinyl doors.

We highly recommend high-quality woodgrain embossed R16 insulated steel garage doors for most residential applications in Western New York.

Resources:

Garaga Residential Garage Doors - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Garaga-Residential-Doors.aspx>

Haas Residential Garage Doors - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Residential-Garage-Doors.aspx>

2.3. Garage Door Hardware Quality

Garage door panels are held together by hinges, and they operate on rollers sliding in steel channels. They also require large counterbalancing springs to reduce the lifting load experienced by your door opener.

Factors such as higher quality hinges and rollers can provide a long-lasting and quieter system. Upgraded springs can increase the guaranteed number of spring cycles (door openings & closings). For larger doors, the number of reinforcement struts on the door, and the system configuration will influence the performance and the cost of your door. Wooden end blocks in the panels can increase panel strength and improve thermal performance.

A small extra investment (typically less than \$150) can significantly improve the performance and durability of your door.

2.4. Garage Door Panel Design & Color

Garage door panels come in many different designs. An embossed Carriage House Style door may typically cost about 15% more. Carriage House Style Models with *Overlays* may cost twice as much as a standard door (not all Carriage House doors have overlays).



[Garaga Classic CC R16 Insulated Steel Door](#)



[Garaga Eastman E-13 Carriage House Door With Overlays](#)

Most manufacturers offer a reasonable range of door panel colors, typically you can choose from “Standard Colors” or “Premium Colors” that may cost up to \$150 more (for each 9x7ft door). Additionally, we can paint your doors in a custom colors that you choose to exactly match your home (with extra price calculated per sqft of door).

2.5. Optional Accessories Like Windows

If you have lived with older garage doors you may not have experienced the joy of having windows in your overhead doors. *Garage Door Windows* can be fully transparent, contain semi-transparent privacy-glass, or even have printed patterns on them. A range of decorative inserts is also available to create a framework pattern on or within in each windowpane.



Example Optional Garage Door Window Arrangements, Many More Designs Are Possible



Example Window Inserts & Printed Glass Pattern, Many More Designs Are Available

Garage Door Windows can significantly improve curb appeal, bring extra light into your garage, and offer a view to the outside that makes your entire garage feel more open and comfortable. Depending upon the quantity, quality, and type of windows and inserts that you choose, you may typically increase the price of your doors from 10 to 50%.

2.6. Do You Need Or Want A New Garage Door Opener?

If you are changing your garage doors, this might be the right time to upgrade to new high-quality door openers. Modern door operators can offer improved performance and quieter operation with convenient features such as battery backup operation in power cuts, automatic lighting when a car or a pedestrian enters your garage, and remote operation with monitoring on your smartphone or tablet via the internet (see the [LiftMaster myQ](#) system).



LiftMaster offers 4 different types of high-quality Garage Door Openers to choose from, including:

- [Belt Drive Openers](#)
- [Chain Drive Openers](#)
- [Screw Drive Openers](#)
- [Jackshaft Openers](#)



With each operator technology offering different advantages and performance characteristics, you can be sure to find the optimum operator for your application and budget.

If you choose to have new door operators installed you will typically be increasing the total project price by about 25-50%.

Resources:

LiftMaster Residential Garage Door Operators - <http://www.adamsdoorcompany.com/Door-Operators.aspx>

3. Summary

When purchasing a new garage door most people ask questions like:

Q1 - What Are The Best Garage Door Style & Color Choices For My Specific Property?

You need to consider:

- The Style and Color of your house.
- The best complementing Garage Door Panel design (and Garage Door Window design?)

Q2 - How Long Will It Take For The Doors To be Delivered And Fitted?

If we have your doors in stock, you can usually expect us to fit them for you within about 1-2 weeks. However, in most cases, your doors will actually be built to order, and then you should typically expect them fitted within 2-4 weeks.

Q3 - How Much Will The New Garage Doors And Their Installation Cost?

The style and color choices that you make will certainly affect the cost, but there are many other important factors that will also have a large impact your garage door and installation cost.

When considering your garage door upgrade in WNY, we suggest that you consider these questions for your specific garage:

- Is it *Attached* to your home?
- Is it *Heated, Insulated, or Non-Insulated*?
- Do you have *Living Space* Above the garage or Adjacent to the garage?
- Do you want or need new *Door Openers*?

Be aware that ALL Attached Garages are indirectly heated, via heat losses through the walls from adjacent or overlying rooms. For most attached garage applications in Western New York, we highly recommend high-quality **Woodgrain Embossed Steel Panel R16 Insulated Doors** that will quickly give you a return on investment via energy cost savings.

If your garage is detached from your house and unheated or uninsulated, and then you certainly should consider reducing the cost of your new garage doors by buying *Uninsulated Garage Doors*.

If you are considering **New Door Operators** this could bring you many new convenient features, but it will also add to the cost.

***For Your New Garage Doors Anywhere In Western New York Talk To Adams Door's Experts
We Sell The Best And Fix The Rest!***

If You Have Questions Call 716.895.9245, [e-mail Us](mailto:info@adamsdoorcompany.com), or Visit www.adamsdoorcompany.com