



## How to Maintain Garage Door Tracks

Each and every one of the garage door parts has a specific important role to play. The tracks are responsible for directing the movement of the door during opening and closing. They hold it in the right position at all times. When you provide proper maintenance of these components, you will not have to worry about the door getting stuck, making horrible scraping sounds or hanging on one side. Find out how to provide appropriate care.

### Proper Preparation

Prepare a wrench, ruler, level tool, ladder soft cloth, solvent, and brake cleaner - These are the items you will need for providing proper garage door maintenance to the tracks. The cloth should be soft so that it does not scratch the surface. If the door's manufacturer has any recommendations regarding the solvent and the cleaner, follow them.

Ensure that you wear protective gloves - This is an important safety measure that you must not forget about. You can also wear safety goggles for maximum protection. Still, this is not required.

Clear the area around the garage door tracks - You would want to have enough room to place the ladder for inspecting the horizontal garage door tracks.

Disengage the opener - This is the other one of the major safety measures which you must implement. Generally, you need to take it every time when providing any kind of maintenance to the door.

### Inspection and Adjustment

Check for component misalignment - You should start from the bottom and go up. Watch out for misalignments between the components which occur due to loosening of the bolts. Get up on the ladder and inspect the horizontal tracks. They should form a slightly greater angle than 90 degrees with their vertical counterparts. Use the level tool to confirm that they are properly aligned. Use the ruler to measure the distances between each of the horizontal tracks and the ceiling. They must be equal. If not, alignment will be required.

Make adjustments carefully - You should loosen the bolts with the wrench first to set the components properly. Once they are aligned, tighten the bolts. They should not be too tight,

however. If you discover any damaged or missing bolts, replace them straight away. It should not be difficult to find spare ones.

### Effective Cleaning

Remove the dirt with the brake cleaner - Open the overhead garage door fully to clean the vertical tracks properly. You should start spraying the cleaner from the top down so the liquid will find its way to the floor removing all the dirt. It is best to hold the can around two feet away from the tracks. After done spraying, use the cloth to remove any remaining dirt. If necessary, spray on stubborn dirt accumulations twice.

Remove any rust with the solvent - If you have noticed any traces of rust during the inspection, you must remove them with the solvent. Apply the product carefully and make sure that the rust gets fully removed. In general, you need to ensure that the bottom parts of the tracks are not exposed to chemicals which can damage their protective galvanized coating. These chemicals typically come from road salts. For this reason, clean the garage floor frequently during the winter and not only.

Finally, you must not lubricate the garage door tracks. Lubrication is necessary only for the moving metal parts of the door. As long as you apply lubricant on the metal rollers, you can expect effective performance. Keep in mind that nylon rollers do not require any kind of lubrication to work effectively and quietly.

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