

ARM-R-LITE DOOR MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

GARAGE DOOR SAFETY TIPS

A garage door is generally the largest moving part of a home or business. Following a few simple precautions can protect you and others from serious injury or death. This document is not meant as a comprehensive list. Always refer to your owner's manual for model specific safety instructions.

SPRINGS



Garage door springs are under extreme tension in order to operate effectively. Only experienced, certified garage door installers should install, adjust, or replace springs.

- Springs are the most important and most dangerous component of a garage door. Serious and fatal injuries can result if springs are handled improperly. **DO NOT:** Adjust or replace existing springs if you are not a trained garage door technician/installer. **Trying to save a few bucks by servicing springs or any component of the spring system yourself is not worth your life.**
- If your door has (2) springs and one wears out, replace both even if one is not broken. This will prevent damage caused by a failure of the second old spring and keep your door working efficiently.
- **Torsion springs**, (above the door) should only be serviced, installed, or replaced by a professional **DO NOT:** Try to repair torsion springs yourself. Improper handling of a torsion spring has a very high potential of serious injury or death. For this reason Arm-R-Lite will not sell torsion springs directly to non-certified installers.
- **Cables:** If the cables that attach the spring system to the bottom brackets on either side of the door are frayed or worn, they have the potential to break. The cables on a garage door are directly linked to high spring tension and should only be replaced by a trained technician/installer.
- **Extension Springs:** If your garage door has extension springs (sides of the door) there should be a cable that runs through the springs and attaches to the wall or ceiling at each end. If an extension spring breaks, the cables keep the spring contained. If you do not have safety cables, contact a certified technician/installer for a safety inspection.
- Your door system should operate smoothly at all times, regardless of age. If the operation is still awkward when manually operated, an out of balance spring system may be to blame. **DO NOT:** attempt to adjust the balance yourself, contact a certified technician/installer to service your spring system.
- **Bottom Brackets:** Bottom brackets are under extreme tension since they are connected to the door's springs. Bright orange warning stickers for bottom brackets are supplied in our hardware boxes. Installers are to place these stickers on each bottom bracket at time of install. **DO NOT:** loosen or adjust the bottom brackets on your garage door. Adjustments should only be made by certified garage door technicians/installers.



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SECTIONS

- Always use the designated lift handles or gripping points on the inside and outside of the door to close your garage door when manually operated. **DO NOT:** place your fingers between sections to pull down a garage door. Always use handles or safe gripping points to open or close your door manually.
- If you need to replace a section of your door contact a trained garage door technician or installer for service. In order to replace sections, bottom brackets (attached to the spring system) must be removed and if done incorrectly can cause serious or fatal injuries.
- Wood garage doors manufactured or installed prior to 1978 have a high probability of lead paint contamination. When removing an existing garage door, be mindful if your door predates 1978 and take appropriate measures to protect yourself. Depending on the state, a garage door installer cannot take down and remove a lead paint contaminated door.

TRACK

- When replacing an existing garage door, homeowners are often tempted to reuse the existing track for the new door. Section thickness, door weight, headroom, and other considerations may make the old track incompatible with the new door. For maximum performance and long life, always use track that is designed for your specific door.

GLASS

- Arm-R-Lite recommends either tempered or laminated glass for full view doors. The impact force needed to break tempered or laminated glass is much higher than standard glass. Any glass will inherently carry safety concerns if it is broken, however tempered and laminate glass will not produce the same sharp shards as standard window glass.

PARTS

- Bottom retainer (Astragal): The replacement of the rubber bottom retainer or astragal may require the removal of bottom brackets. Due to the safety hazards of improperly handling bottom brackets, rubber astragal can only be sold to experienced door installers and technicians.
- Rigid snap bead and soft vinyl channel are used to secure glass and panels in a garage door frame. As time goes on, impact damage and regular wear will result in the need to replace these parts. Snap bead and vinyl channel are available through Arm-R-Lite for sale to homeowners and businesses.



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OPERATION



Garage doors are such a common part of our lives it is easy to allow a lapse in safety to occur when moving through your day. Please be sure to practice safe operating procedures.

- Do not stand or walk under a moving door! Serious injury or death can occur when children or adults try to race through the door before it closes.
- Never let or encourage children to play with transmitters or remote controls.
- The wall mounted push button control pad should be installed out of reach of children (5' from the ground). **DO NOT:** use or mount the control pad out of view of the door.
- Teach children to never play beneath or near an open garage door.
- Section joints, tracks, hinges, springs, and other door parts are not toys. Teach children to value their hands and fingers and keep them clear of moving parts. Contact with a moving door can cause serious injury to adults as well as children.



For additional safety information, please refer to the following sites:

- DASMA: <http://www.dasma.com/>
- IDA: <http://www.doors.org/>
- Liftmaster motors: <http://www.liftmaster.com/lmcv2/>
- Miller Edge: <http://www.milleredge.com/>

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