

It's important for any homeowner to have a safe and accurate garage door opener. Not many understand how to choose the right garage door opener for their home so here are some tips to guide through the garage door opener process.

Horsepower or HP is very basic information you need to know. The horsepower is related directly to your garage door, the horsepower will assure that the garage door opener has enough power to lift your garage door. Therefore make sure you have checked your garage door, including height, weight, balance and type of garage door.

For most single and double car garage doors (up to 350 lbs), the 1/2 HP is adequate. Horsepower also refer to Newton, 600-Newtons is similar to 1/2 HP. The 1/2-horsepower motor is the most common type for residential use. It will work on one or two door garages. For **heavier garage doors** such as carriage house or solid wood garage doors, the 3/4-HP is ideal choice. The 3/4-HP is for super-heavy garage door (up to 500 lbs), more power is better than not enough. Don't make the mistake of buying a 1/2-HP opener and installing it only to find out that you need a stronger opener to open your garage door.

Type of drive

Chain drives are noisy because they use a metal chain along a metal trolley, but it's inexpensive. It's the least expensive and most popular garage-door openers.

Screw drives lift the door with a threaded steel rod. Look for the latest models that use a plastic-lined track to reduce noisy metal-to-metal contact and to increase opening speed.

Belt drives are the best in quiet performance. If you're worried about noise and such, belt drives are the best choice. They are the quietest, making them ideal choice if you have rooms positioned above the garage.