

Your garage door is one of the most important entryways into your house, with over 71% of Americans claiming to use their garage door as the main entryway to their home. This makes sense, given that most people will be driving to and from their houses, but what happens when this important entryway suddenly malfunctions? A broken garage door can catch you off-guard at the most inopportune moments, perhaps as you're on your way to work or to pick the kids up from school. What happens when you cannot get your vehicle out of your garage?

In moments like this, it can be tempting to roll up your sleeves and attempt some DIY garage door repair, however, this is not recommended in most cases. Garage doors are often several hundreds of pounds in weight, and DIY garage door repair can end very badly if you don't know what you're doing. It is strongly recommended to contact a garage door repair professional for these type of problems, and here we highlight the 10 top reasons to hire a professional garage door repair company when problems arise.

1. Health And Safety

It may seem obvious, but health and safety are the number one concern when it comes to DIY garage door repair. Your garage door weighs several hundred pounds, and can become a deadweight if you tamper with the wrong components. Several hundred pounds suddenly crashing to the ground can be an immense danger to your family, pets, or vehicles. Don't just take our word for it, however, take a look at these statistics:

- Approximately 20,000 people every year visit hospitals due to garage door-related injuries
- DIY garage door repairs result in 1,610 injuries being reported to US hospitals every year
- 224 people every year are injured by faulty doors that should have been repaired but were left as they were

Dealing with a garage door require deep understanding of how the garage door system built and how the intricate garage door parts relate to one another.

2. Security

As most garage doors are directly attached to a person's house, they are undoubtedly a vulnerable point of entry if they become damaged. Opportunistic thieves may take advantage of broken garage doors, especially if they aren't repaired on the same day and are left broken overnight. A professional garage door repair team will ensure that your door is fixed properly and promptly,

allowing you to feel safe in your home. A vulnerable or partially-open garage door also risks additional things such as rain/snow getting into your garage, and unwanted wild animals/insects getting in too.

3. Long-Term Costs

It may seem like a good idea to get a “quick fix” from a handy family member, or perhaps you know a quick fix that you can do yourself. Though this may be cheap and convenient in the short term, are you really solving the problem in the long term? Half-baked garage door repairs often do more damage in the long term, and may result in you having to pay out more in the future anyway. Hiring a garage door repair professional allows you to rest assured that the problem is taken care of, and know that additional costs are not going to mount up in the near future.



4. Insurance Reasons

Dealing with Insurance companies can often be exhausting. Most home insurance companies will only pay for damage to your garage door if the repair is done by a qualified, professional garage door repair company. A freelancer, handyman, or family member (or yourself) will be seen as a liability in the insurance company’s eyes, as they don’t have the paperwork or credentials necessary to back up that they actually know how to fix a garage door in the first place. Hiring a garage door repair professional and getting all the associated paperwork in order means that you’re more likely to coerce the insurance company into a pay-out.

5. Liability

If you sell your home and a new owner becomes injured by the faulty garage door, they may seek out an insurance claim. If it is revealed that you (i.e. an unqualified DIY amateur) performed a garage door repair, you may be liable to pay them for their injuries. Hiring a professional garage door repair company means that you needn’t worry about this sort of thing.

6. Warranty

Many professional garage door repair companies will offer you some sort of warranty, guaranteeing you peace of mind for a certain length of time, sometimes even for the lifetime of the door. In a sense, you're not just paying for repairs; you're paying for knowledge, experience and for the peace of mind that your garage door will be re-repaired should any of the same issues arise. Of course, there are always caveats to warranties, but you are definitely in a more secure position when you have one.



Dangerous Garage Door Components

7. Dangerous Components

Many garage door components are very dangerous, and should not be tinkered with if they are not fully understood. The components of a garage door all work in tandem with one another, and messing with one piece could inevitably damage or weaken another piece without your knowledge. Garage door torsion springs, for example, are full of built-up energy, and act as the counterweight to your door's weight. Messing with the garage door springs could cause this energy to be released as the spring bursts free (313 annual garage door-related injuries are due to springs alone) and could also cause your door to come crashing down to the ground.

Other components, such as the garage door rollers, panels, tracks, and cables, can also appear to have been "fixed" by DIY amateurs, but may often not be adequate, and could be more dangerous in the long term. Garage door repair professionals know how to deal with dangerous components, and it's always best to let them handle these things. Do you really want to shell out for a hospital bill as well as a garage door repair?

8. Appearance

Whether you're house-proud or just like keeping up with the Joneses, appearance means a lot to some people. It goes without saying that a professional garage door repair company is going to ensure that your door looks its best, and may be able to fix any dents or scratches in your door's façade if you wish. There's no point in having a fancy home and well-kept lawn if your garage door looks like it was in the blitz.

9. Expertise And Diagnostics

Garage door repair professionals undoubtedly have the necessary knowledge, expertise, and experience to handle your problems. They are also equipped with all the necessary tools, and many are covered with things such as warranties and liability insurance. A professional garage door company is also able to troubleshoot more accurately than a DIY amateur can. You may think that you know why your garage door is squeaking and creaking, but do you really know why? Often the solutions are not so simple.

Many DIY amateurs will think they have diagnosed their door's problems and acted appropriately, but often this simply is not the case. If your rollers are squeaking and sticking, you may think that they need more lubricant, and may simply grease them up a little more. It could be the case, however, that the rollers are old and need replacing, that the track is bent, that the rollers are dirty, or a whole other myriad of problems. A garage door professional is fully trained to diagnose and treat your garage door's problems.

10. Maintenance

Although repairing your garage door is great, wouldn't it be better if it wasn't broken in the first place? Hiring the professionals to inspect your garage door means that they can often spot areas of your door that are in need of essential maintenance. You may save a lot of money if your garage door's problems are spotted early before they develop and get worse. Sometimes it may be that your door needs a part replaced, other times it may be as simple as a little lubricant or cleaning. A professional garage door company is able to ensure your door's continued good health!