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How to Perform Garage Door Safety Tests

The benefits of using an automated garage door include great convenience and the saving of time and effort. The modern openers are made to be speedy, effective, and dependable. The ones manufactured after 1993 come equipped with an automatic reversal mechanism and sensors to meet the UL 325 safety standards. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the safety system works optimally. This is done with the use of three main tests. Find out how to perform them.

Safety Sensors Test

Open the door fully - Use the garage motor remote to get the door to a fully opened position. Just remember that you must not leave the door unattended while it is open.

Block the safety sensors - For this, you can use any free-standing solid object which is tall enough to block the devices. Some of the main options include a piece of wood and a roll of kitchen paper. In addition, avoid using expensive and fragile items just in case. Then place the object right in front of one of the sensors.

Push the clicker button for closing the door - Make sure that you do not stand in the path of the door when you do this. If the sensors and the reversal mechanism work fine, the door should not move from its fully opened position when you hit the button. If it starts going down freely, repair of the sensors and/or the opener will be required immediately.

Touch Reversal Test

Set the door in fully opened position - Simply push the button and wait until the garage door opener stops. Furthermore, keep in mind that it is important to keep children away while you perform the test.

Set an object which does not block the sensors underneath the door - This could be a folding chair or a double-sided ladder. You can also use a tall stool whose legs are at sufficient distance apart so as not to block the sensors. The purpose of this test is to evaluate the performance of the reversal mechanism when it touches objects. Basically, you get to check how well it works without the sensors. That is why it is so important to let their beams connect freely.

Lower the door - When you push the clicker button, the door should continue its course downwards until it touches the object. When it does that, it must reverse immediately without

causing any pressure or damage to the item. If it does not, you must have the opener repaired right away.

Reversal Speed Test

Start with the door opened - This is the initial point of every test, as you can see. While the other two tests assess the safety system's overall performance, this one evaluates how fast the door goes up when an object slips underneath it all of a sudden.

Wave an object in front of the sensors while the door is moving down - For this test, you need to use a long and thin object such as a broom stick or a garden rake. The idea is for you to be as far away from the door as possible for safety purposes. Once you are ready, push the clicker button so that the door begins to close. While it is around four feet above the floor, wave the object in front of the sensors. The door should stop moving down and go upwards instantly. If it continues its path downwards even slightly, repair will be needed.

Run these tests at least every three or four months as part of garage door sensors maintenance. The higher the testing frequency is the better. It will help to reduce the safety risk to the lowest possible minimum.

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