

Unlocking the Garage: A Guide to Essential Garage Door Terminology

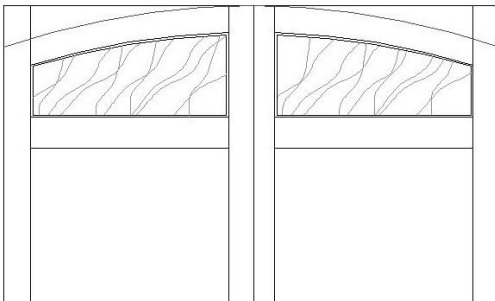
If you've never bought a new garage door, you may not be aware of the intricacies that bring the whole look together. Before you start designing your own, it's crucial to understand the various garage door terms.

Our garage door glossary defines all these parts, from the necessary hardware for your door to function properly to decorative elements that provide personal touches to your design.

A

Arched

A design option for the upper section of a garage door, crafted from the radius of a single circle to match various home aesthetics. Available in a range of configurations, they can feature simulated or true divided lites for a sophisticated look, with true arches available for swinging doors.



Astragal

This thin strip of wood is typically used to cover and seal the seam between panels when the door is closed. These strips are used on true-swing garage doors and attached to the active section.

C

Casing

The casing is a finish-quality material that frames the garage door opening and often has a model profile for aesthetic appeal.

Clavos

Also known as decorative nails, clavos are 1×1" garage door decorative hardware typically placed along the outside edges and down the middle of a door to create a true swing appearance.

Clipped

Clipped tops feature angled corners and can be made solid or incorporate windows. This style adds a subtle, distinct design that can blend into your entire exterior look.

E

Ellipse

Ellipse tops use a minimum of two compound curves for a one-of-a-kind look. As you increase the number of curves, the design becomes more complex.



F

Face

The face encompasses the entire front of your garage door, including the panels, windows, trim, and decorative hardware.

Faux Stain Paint

When designing an Artisan wood composite or vinyl garage door, you'll have three different paint or finishing options: stain, paint, or faux stain paint. Similar to faux wood, faux stain paint provides the look of a natural stain with less maintenance.

Frame

The door face is mounted to the frame, which provides reinforcement and helps keep the door steady. It's commonly made from aluminum, steel, or engineered wood, depending on the door series you choose. The parts of a garage door frame include the hinges, cables, tracks, weatherstripping, and panels.

J

Jamb

Another final touch of your garage door is the jamb. This is a finish-quality wood trim placed around the door opening to obscure exposed studs, headers, and wall materials.

L

Latches

To create the look of a traditional lock, these garage door accessories can be tulip, heart, or bean-shaped.

Lites

Also known as window panes, lites are individual sections within garage door windows that are defined by inserts, grilles, or muntins. Like other design features, you have quite a few options to choose from, including mullioned, prairie, simulated divided, and true divided.

P

Paint

Suitable for stain-quality materials designed for paint finishes, this is a common choice for most wood, vinyl, and wood composite doors.

Panels

Panels will be the largest component of the garage door and make up the majority of the design. They are large horizontal or vertical sections located directly below the windows. The number of panels varies greatly depending on the size and style of your garage door. Artisan offers a wide variety of panel styles, including flat, tongue and groove, V-groove, raised, and recessed.

Part

Also known as a slab or leaf, a part refers to the number of pieces that make up your garage door. Parts can be active or passive depending on which side opens first. The active parts of a garage door help it open and close smoothly, like hinges, tracks, and springs. Passive parts are more decorative features, such as panels, ring pulls, or windows.

Pull Handles

Pull handles come in a variety of designs that can be matched to your existing exterior. Artisan's choices include tulip, heart, or bean shapes and are typically paired with strap hinges to round out the swing-style carriage door look.



R

Ring Pulls

Two ring pulls can be added to the center of the door to simulate the look of a true swing product. A best practice for garage door decorative hardware is to make sure they're placed in a realistic spot.

Rollers

Rollers are small parts made from nylon or steel that help the door travel through the track as it opens and closes. If your door isn't opening or closing properly, rollers may be part of the issue.

S

Specialty Windows

In addition to standard double-strength clear windows, Artisan offers various specialty windows, such as frosted, glacier, or hammered, that add texture, enhance security, and obscure the inside of your garage for privacy.

Section

This refers to the horizontal pieces of an overhead door that roll up or down as the door opens and closes. The place where each door section (or part) meets is known as the joint.

S

Sill

Sills are the raised, horizontal pieces that serve as the door's threshold. They're typically made from aluminum and are designed to protect against water infiltration.

Simulated Arches

When designing your garage door, you'll have the option between true arches and simulated arches. A simulated arch is actually a square top hidden behind an opening with your desired arch design.

Springs

Springs counteract the force of gravity on the garage door so it can be opened manually or with an electric opener. Similar to rollers, springs may need to be repaired if your door isn't opening or closing smoothly.

Square

Overhead doors can only have square tops, which feature 90-degree angles for a traditional, familiar look.

Stain

Stain brings out the natural beauty of all-wood doors and is designed to create a durable surface barrier while retaining flexibility. Artisan uses NewLook EnduraStain on all of our stain-grade doors.

S

Strap Hinges

Available in tulip, heart, or bean shapes, these garage door accessories are usually positioned on the top and bottom rails and/or in an intermediate location under the window area. The key to decorative hardware is to make sure the design looks like a functional door.

Stop

Door stops are designed to prevent true-swing door slabs from swinging inward beyond the closed position and damaging the contents of your garage. They're generally made from wood, vinyl, or Q-Lon and can be customized to match your garage door's finish.

Sweep

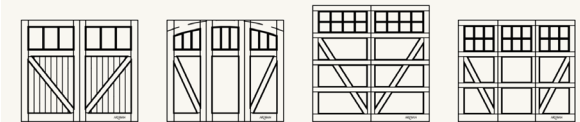
Door sweeps are made from aluminum and cover the space between the bottom of the door slab and the sill. They're required on all exterior doors because they prevent air and water leakage. This is just one of the parts of a garage door that helps weather-seal your garage space.

T

Trim Boards

Trim boards are decorative pieces placed on top of overlay garage doors that enhance the look of your door and boost its curb appeal. They come in several styles, including chamfered edge, cross buck (X-buck), cross rail, sprung buck, V-buck, Z-buck (A-buck), and square edges. Trim boards look best in pairs and can frame your door, divide it into distinct parts, or separate the windows from the rest of the face.

V-Buck examples:



Z-Buck (A-Bucks) examples are:



W

Weatherstripping

Also known as the weather seal, weatherstripping plays a key role in keeping your garage at a comfortable temperature year-round. Similar to the door sweep, it's designed to prevent air and moisture infiltration. It can also help keep your door's parts from freezing.