

How to Fix a Garage Door that Sticks

A sticky garage door can really slow down your day. Fortunately, simple troubleshooting procedures help ease sluggish, sticking doors. Sticky tracks, wheels and chains often serve as culprits for garage door problems – you can lubricate these parts once you encounter sticking or prevent the hassle by regularly maintaining your door.



- 1** Pull the cord – which usually features a red handle – hanging from your automatic garage door's guide track. Pulling this manual override cord allows you to open and close your garage door by hand. If the door opens and closes manually without sticking, the problem lies in your electric motor. Follow the troubleshooting procedures listed in your owner's manual or contact a garage door opener repair professional for motor repairs.
- 2** Adjust the sensitivity settings on your garage door opener if you have an automatic garage door. Try opening the door using various settings. If the sensitivity is set too high, the garage door may stick.
- 3** Position a ladder under the garage door so you can easily access its tracks when the door is open.
- 4** Lubricate the wheels and tracks of your garage door when it is open using garage door lubricant, available at most hardware stores. From the ladder, spray each wheel with a coating of lubricant and then spray a quick stream of lubricant down the tracks.
- 5** Step down from the ladder and spray a stream of lubricant on all portions of the track.
- 6** Stand next to the chain of an automatic garage door. Use the garage door opener to open the door; target the chain with the spray lubricant as it feeds through the motor to coat the entire chain with lubricant.
- 7** Check your garage door's metal track for dents or bumps. Hold a wood block over any damaged track and hit the block with a hammer to straighten the track.

Do not hit the track directly with a hammer, as this may cause further damage -- the block ensures an even, flat outcome.

8 Use a level to check the alignment of your garage door's tracks. If the tracks are not straight, loosen their bolts or screws with an adjustable wrench or screwdriver. Tap the tracks back into alignment with a hammer and re-tighten the bolts or screws.

Things You Will Need

- Garage door spray lubricant
- Ladder
- Wood block
- Hammer
- Level
- Adjustable wrench
- Screwdriver

Tips

- Lubricate the wheels and tracks of your garage door once every six months to prevent sticking. Tighten any loose bolts, nuts and screws you notice while lubricating.
- Position a space heater near the inside of the garage door on nights when freezing may occur to prevent a sticky garage door in the morning.

Warning

- Do not attempt garage door repairs you don't feel comfortable with. Contact a professional for complex repairs, such as torsion spring maintenance.