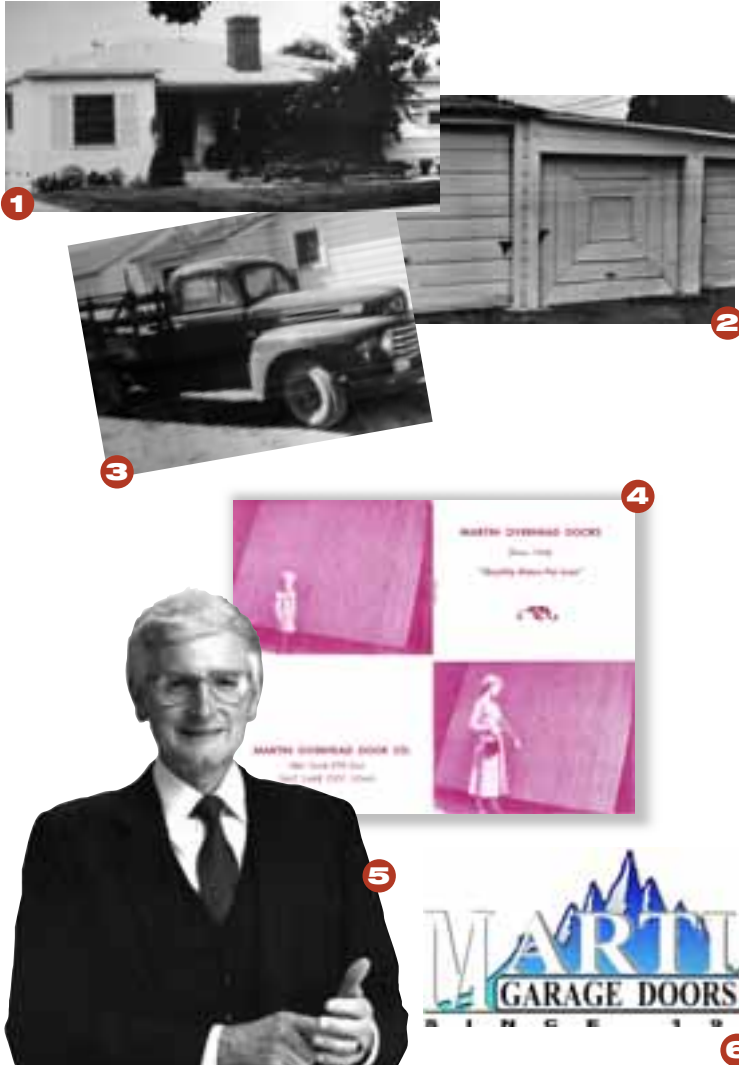


FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

Martin Door

Editor's Note: In 2006, Martin Door marks its 70th year in the garage door business. Here's a look back at its beginnings and key milestones.



Photos

1. Martin Doors were first made in the backyard of this house in Santa Ana, Calif., 1936.
2. Martin's first manufacturing plant, 1939.
3. Dave Martin's first company truck, 1949.
4. A 1955 Martin brochure.
5. Dave Martin, 1986.
6. Today's logo.

Milestones

- 1936 ▶ Martin Door is founded in Santa Ana, Calif., by Leno Martin, older brother of Dave Martin. Leno's invention of the new Martin one-piece overhead-type door soon begins to replace the popular swinging doors of the day. A complete one-car door sells for \$16 installed, and a two-car door for \$29 installed. The company's market is the western United States. Dave Martin remembers installing doors for Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, Dorothy Lamour, Bob Hope, and MGM in 1940-1941.
 - 1940s ▶ In 1942, government padlocks are placed on railroad cars of lumber and steel with notes that read, "The contents have been confiscated for the war effort." Leno says to Dave, "We are out of business." The company then moves to Salt Lake City, Utah, to be closer to family.
 - 1950s ▶ Leno Martin, who has a terminal illness, sells the company to Dave Martin.
 - 1960s ▶ The firm changes its marketing emphasis from one-piece wood garage doors to sectional wood doors.
 - 1976 ▶ Martin develops an idea and design for raised-panel steel sectional garage doors.
 - 1977 ▶ Because of a strong environmental emphasis on "saving our forests," Martin begins to manufacture the first hot-dipped galvanized high-tensile steel sectional garage doors with a ribbed design. The doors are the first steel doors made with two coats of baked-on enamel.
 - 1980s ▶ Martin begins exporting its doors outside North America.
 - 1987 ▶ After seven years of research and development, the company introduces the first galvanized torsion springs with 20,000-cycle life.
 - 1995 ▶ Martin develops the section-joint FingerShield for all doors up to 9' high. Low-profile hinges are also developed to keep fingers out of section joints inside. In the next few years, other safety innovations include:
 - Using acrylic only for designer windows
 - End and center stiles with rolled edges
 - Reverse angle shields
 - Double hemmed tracks
 - Roller shields
 - Track curve shields
 - Inside lift cables only
 - Lock-on bottom roller brackets
 - Lock-on side bearing brackets with side spring anchor brackets
 - Tamper-resistant Allen-head set screws with stealth covers for torsion springs and cable drums
 - 2001 ▶ Martin Door becomes the first garage door manufacturer registered to the ISO 9001 quality standard by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Martin Door introduces a line of copper sectional garage doors.
 - 2004 ▶ Martin opens a new powder-coating facility that allows the company to offer more than 60 different powder-coat options within 48 hours.
 - 2005 ▶ The company introduces a controlled descent device to be compliant with new European standards.
- Today, Martin Door's manufacturing facility has expanded to 220,000 square feet on 14 acres to serve customers in more than 80 countries.