

WHY INSULATED GARAGE DOORS MAKE SENSE

An insulated door on an unconditioned space? Here are four reasons why

By Lauren Hunter, Remodeling Magazine

Editor's note: Garage door dealers occasionally need to explain to customers the benefits of an insulated garage door. This article by Remodeling magazine handles that job as well as any article we've seen.

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Opening your garage door in the winter isn't like opening your front door whereby a gust of cold air dissipates in the conditioned space. Even if the garage is insulated and drywalled, it's an unconditioned living room-size space that just stays cold. So what's the virtue of an insulated garage door if it's not keeping heat in? Manufacturers offer some insight.

1. Warmer for sure. In the winter, garages with insulated doors get cold, but not necessarily freezing. That's an important distinction, notes Clopay senior product manager Justin Evans. "If it's 20 degrees outside and all you have is a [non-insulated] pan door, your garage temperature will be around 30 degrees," he says, citing data from the Clopay engineering department. With an insulated door, that temperature is closer to 42 degrees. "One's below freezing and one's above freezing. That makes a big difference."

Wayne Dalton marketing director Kevin Jones adds that in very cold regions, "some people can't get their cars started in the winter if the garage temperature is too cold." Both manufacturers offer garage doors insulated with polystyrene or polyurethane.

2. Vestibule effect. Jones also suggests that a garage secured by an insulated door acts as a buffer zone between the home's conditioned space and the great outdoors. Restaurants are a classic example of this vestibule construction. "If you look at it as a buffer space," Jones says, "you're not blasting everyone with cold air just by entering the garage." Many homes have

conditioned spaces above the garage that also benefit from this vestibule zone.

3. Quieter operation. There's nothing quite like a noisy garage door to raise the alert that someone is leaving the house early or coming home late. In addition to a more finished interior appearance, Todd Miller, owner of QMA Design Build, in Ventnor, N.J., says that he selects insulated doors because "they seem to rattle significantly less than non-insulated doors."

4. All-around toughness. Manufacturers agree that denser polyurethane offers significantly more insulation value than a polystyrene core, but both are better than nothing when it comes to strengthening a garage door. "Think about your kids throwing a basketball against a pan door," Evans says. "It just won't stand up to

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that. People don't realize how much abuse a garage door takes." Insulation adds rigidity to the door panels, helping them withstand certain impacts, as well as the stress of constant raising and lowering. ■

Garage Doors by the Numbers

7 out of 10 homeowners rely on the garage door as their primary entrance.

—LiftMaster

91.5% The average return-on-investment for a garage door replacement project. —2016 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report

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Photo courtesy of Clopay





• UNLOCK THE VALUE OF • INSULATED GARAGE DOORS

HOMEOWNER ROI

For every \$100 invested on an insulation project, there is a **return of \$116.90**. The ROI of replacing your garage door with an upscale or mid-range model is 90-91%.¹



REDUCE ELECTRIC BILLS

Homeowners can save up to **20% on annual energy bills** with proper insulation.²

INCREASE RESALE VALUE

An insulated garage door can **increase home appraisal value up to 4%**.³



TEMPERATURE CONTROL

An outdoor temperature of 20°F makes a non-insulated garage ~30°F. An **insulated garage door acts as a buffer**, bringing garage temperatures to ~42°F.⁴

BATTERY EFFECTIVENESS

Below-freezing temps reduce a car battery's effectiveness by 50%.⁵ Whereas excessive heat can lead to internal breakdown.⁶



THE POWER OF POLYURETHANE INSULATION

SUPERIOR INSULATION AND BARRIER TO SOUND

Structural strength of an insulated garage door can **decrease exposure to noise** and **provide protection from severe weather**.⁷

Conventional walls and doors are built like drums. Once a noise strikes, the sound carries. **Polyurethane insulation creates a barrier to capture the sound**.⁹

Mechanical properties of polyurethane insulation help **reduce air leaks** and **lower greenhouse gas emissions**.⁸

Polyurethane insulation has been **proven to resist damage** due to hail and wind-borne debris **better than other materials**.⁷

InsulationScience

Dow is a leading supplier of customizable polyurethane insulation solutions in a wide variety of construction applications. Dow's technical experts work closely with garage door manufacturers to improve insulation performance – which results in more durable and energy-efficient garage doors, happier homeowners and a more sustainable society.

To learn more about **polyurethane insulated garage doors**, visit www.dow.com/doors.

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⁸ Wilson Bryant Air Conditioning, Insulation in the Garage: One Area That Has a Surprising Impact on Home Comfort (<http://bryant-air.com/info/insulation-garage-one-area-surprising-impact-home-comfort>)

⁹ Hometips.com, 8 Soundproofing Secrets for a Quieter Home, 2017 (<http://www.hometips.com/buying-guides/soundproofing-insulation.html>)

