

# Maintaining Your Steel Garage Door

## Rust-Prevention System

Steel skins are protected through a tough, layered coating system, including a hot-dipped galvanized layer, a protective metal oxide pretreatment and a baked on primer and top coat.



## Cleaning and Preserving the Door

We recommend doors be cleaned and waxed (steel) at least once a year to help protect the door from foreign matter or salt. In harsh, salty environments we strongly suggest washing often to keep salt off the door and waxing at least twice per year. For example, salt may adhere to the door in coastal regions or in areas where salt is used to melt snow or ice on the road or driveways. If left unattended, this could cause damage such as surface rust.

**Failure to do so may result in loss of warranty coverage.**

### Cleaning the Door

Working from top to bottom of the door, use a well soaked cloth, sponge, or soft bristle brush with either of the following solutions:

- One cup of Simple Green® or non-toxic biodegradable cleaner (less than 0.5% phosphate) into two gallons of warm water  
-OR-
- Household liquid dishwashing detergent such as Dawn®. **DO NOT** use scouring powders or solvents when cleaning the door.

Rinse the door with clean water to complete cleaning and allow to dry. **DO NOT** use a pressure washer on the door.

**NOTE:** Be sure to clean behind stop molding on the sides and top of the door.

## Waxing the Door

After cleaning, use liquid or spray car wax (not paste) to preserve the door's finish. Be sure to wax any surface that may be exposed to elements such as salt, including the interior of the bottom section of the door. To apply the wax, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**NOTE:** Be careful not to get wax on decorative hardware as this may cause discoloration.

## Window Care

- The insert has tabs on each side, to remove pull the center of the insert firmly out of the window.
- Replacing the insert is the reversal of the process described for removal. The tabs must be pressed under the lip in the window frame.

### WINDOW CLEANING

- Clean glass with a mild solution of a dishwashing detergent and a soft cloth.  
**Note: Acrylic Impact or Decorative Windows CAN ONLY be washed using a clean, soft sponge or cloth with a mild dish soap and lukewarm water. DO NOT use any ammoniated, abrasive or solvent-based cleaners of any kind. DO NOT brush, scrub or scrape the windows.**
- After cleaning, rinse thoroughly.
- Dry with soft cloth or chamois to prevent spotting.

**⚠ CAUTION!** Use care when handling decorative windows to avoid scraping or scratching the surface.

## Paint Repair

Should the paint finish become damaged, exposing bare metal, it will become necessary to repair this area to prevent rust from forming.

- Damaged area should be lightly sanded with medium to fine sandpaper, making sure to remove all visible red and white rust.
- Wipe this area with dry, clean rag.
- Coat sanded area with high quality, rust inhibiting, zinc enriched primer. This can be found at most paint or hardware stores and should be labeled for covering bare and galvanized steel.
- Wait time specified on the primer's instructions before proceeding with painting door.