OTTAWA GARAGE DOOR REPAIRS

Fix or Replace

Deciding between a repair and a replacement by symptom: springs, cables, openers, panels or the whole door

5 Expert Answers from Garage Door IQ

ottawagaragedoorrepairs.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Broken spring or a whole new door: how do Ottawa homeowners compare the two?

A spring replacement runs about $200 to $350 for one spring, or about $280 to $550 if the company replaces both, based on published 2025–2026 Ottawa estimates. A new single insulated door, installed, runs about $1,400 to $2,500 or more; a single uninsulated door about $800 to $1,500. Those are separate jobs with separate price ranges, so the comparison starts with getting both figures in writing for your specific door.

Springs hold the door's weight under high tension; leave them to a trained technician. What the technician does is replace the spring, square up the door and rebalance it. Some Ottawa companies replace both springs at once; ask whether the quote covers one or both, and ask why they are recommending that approach.

The door question is different. A panel swap is worth asking about only if a matching section is still made for your door; published estimates put one panel at about $300 to $700. If no match exists, or if the door frame itself is damaged, a full replacement is the path. For a new door the quote should name the door, the tracks and the springs going in, and whether the existing opener is being reconnected or replaced. It should not bundle in a new opener unless you have asked for one; the new-door price bands above do not include an opener.

A few things to ask when you have quotes in front of you:

- Does the spring quote cover one spring or both, and what does rebalancing the door include?
- Is a matching panel still available for your door, and what is that price compared with a full replacement?
- If the door opening is staying the same size, no building permit is needed under the City of Ottawa's exempt list. If you are widening the opening, that is a structural alteration and a permit is required; ask the company whether the quote accounts for that work.
- What certification mark does any new opener carry? Ontario law requires electrical products to bear a recognized certification mark (O. Reg. 438/07, s.5(1)).

Before you agree to either job, ask each company to put the repair price and the full replacement price in writing side by side, so you are comparing the same scope of work.

Q2

Can one damaged panel be replaced in Ottawa if my door model is discontinued?

If a matching panel is no longer made for your door model, a single-section swap is not possible, so ask for a full-door price to compare. If a matching panel can still be sourced, published estimates from Ottawa garage door companies, 2025–2026, put a single section at about $300 to $700.

The key question is whether the panel is still in production. Ask the company to confirm availability in writing. If the panel exists, ask the quote to list the section and the labour. If it does not, the comparison shifts to a full door replacement, where published 2025–2026 Ottawa estimates put a single insulated door at about $1,400 to $2,500 or more, and a single uninsulated door at about $800 to $1,500.

There is one more thing worth checking before you commit to a panel: even when a matching section is available, ask the company whether the replacement will match the colour and finish of the rest of your door, and whether they can show you a sample or a photo from a comparable job.

When you have two written quotes in front of you, put these items side by side: the price of the panel itself versus the labour to install it, whether the quote covers one section or includes any hardware that needs replacing alongside it, and, if the panel is unavailable and both quotes are for a full door, whether each quote is for the same door size and the same level of insulation. A quote that leaves any of those lines blank is worth a follow-up call before you agree to anything.

Q3

Is my Stittsville garage door problem the spring, the cable or the opener?

The symptom tells you which repair to ask about, and the technician confirms it.

- The door feels very heavy or will not lift: that is the sign of a broken spring.
- The door hangs crooked or sticks part-way: that is the sign of a frayed or snapped lift cable.
- The opener hums, stalls, reverses or ignores the remote: that points to the opener, its sensors or its controls.

Springs hold the door's weight under high tension; leave them to a trained technician. Cables are attached to the spring system, so the same applies.
Published 2025-2026 Ottawa estimates put opener repair at about $150 to $450, a single spring replacement at about $200 to $350, and a cable repair at about $170 to $320. Your quote will differ. Ask the company to tell you, before any work starts, exactly which part failed and whether the quote covers one spring or both.

When you call, describe what the door does and does not do, and ask the company to confirm the diagnosis in writing along with the price before they begin.

Q4

Cable snapped on an old garage door in Orleans: which two prices should I request?

A snapped lift cable means the door can hang crooked or stick part-way, and because cables are attached to the spring system, the same applies: leave the repair to a trained technician.

The two prices to request are the cable repair and a full door replacement. Published 2025-2026 Ottawa estimates put cable repair at about $170 to $320, and ask whether that covers one side or both. A new single door installed runs about $800 to $1,500 uninsulated or about $1,400 to $2,500 or more for an insulated door; your quote will differ.

Ask for both figures in writing before any work starts, then compare them side by side. The decision is yours. On an old door, ask too whether matching panels are still made for that model, because that changes what can be repaired later.

A fair cable repair quote should itemize:

- labour for the cable replacement
- whether one cable or both are covered
- a check that the door hangs square after the repair
- any spring work the technician finds is needed at the same time

A fair door replacement quote should list the door, tracks, springs, hardware and reconnection of your existing opener, or a new opener if that is part of the job.
Before you agree to either price, ask the company what they found when they looked at the springs, and whether that work is included in the figure they gave you.

Q5

Should I replace only the opener on an old garage door in Gloucester?

The decision comes down to whether the door itself is still sound. Published 2025–2026 Ottawa estimates put a new belt-drive opener, installed, at about $500 to $950, while a new single insulated door, installed, is about $1,400 to $2,500 or more; the opener is a separate line. Ask for both prices in writing before you decide.

What matters for this job is the condition of the door panels, the springs, and the tracks. If the panels are dented or cracked, ask whether a matching replacement section is still made for that door model. If no matching panel exists, a panel swap is off the table, so ask for a full-door price as well. Springs and cables are a separate question: ask the technician whether they need work at the same visit, and for that price in writing. Springs hold the door's weight under high tension; leave them to a trained technician.

On the opener itself, Ontario law requires electrical products to carry a recognized certification mark (O. Reg. 438/07, s.5(1)). The Electrical Safety Authority says to look for that mark before you buy, install or use an electrical product. If the new opener needs a new outlet or circuit, that is electrical work: a Licensed Electrical Contractor files the ESA notification. Ask the company which scenario applies to your garage before the job starts.

A fair quote for an opener replacement should break out the opener unit, any mounting hardware, the disposal of the old unit, labour, and whether the door's balance is checked as part of the job. If springs or cables are flagged during the visit, ask for those prices separately in writing before any work begins.

Ask the company to look at the door itself before quoting the opener alone, and to price both options in writing.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Garage Door Repairs. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before changing a garage door opening. A wider or new opening needs a City building permit, and new electrical work is filed with the Electrical Safety Authority. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawagaragedoorrepairs.ca** for the latest answers.