OTTAWA GARAGE DOOR REPAIRS

Opener Wiring & ESA

When a new opener needs an outlet or circuit: ESA notifications and Licensed Electrical Contractors

5 Expert Answers from Garage Door IQ

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Q1

Can I wire an opener outlet myself in my own Ottawa house?

Yes, you can do the electrical work yourself in your own Ottawa home, but the Ontario Electrical Safety Code requires you to file a notification of work with the Electrical Safety Authority before you start, even for a small job.

The Electrical Safety Authority puts it plainly: "Even for little jobs, you must file a notification of work (i.e., permit) with ESA before commencing work." If you hire someone instead, that work must be done by a Licensed Electrical Contractor, and they file the notification on your behalf.

A couple of things worth knowing before you decide:

- The ESA's position on unapproved electrical work is that "installation and connection of unapproved electrical equipment is against the law, puts people at risk and can lead to prosecution."
- The notification is filed before the work begins, not after.

On the opener itself: Ontario law requires electrical products to carry a recognized certification mark before they are used, advertised, displayed, sold or offered for sale (O. Reg. 438/07, s.5(1)). The ESA lists more than 20 recognized marks, so check the opener's label before you buy it.
The City of Ottawa issues no electrical permit; the ESA notification is the separate process that covers the wiring. If your question is only about running a new outlet or circuit for the opener, that is the ESA path.

File the ESA notification before you pick up a wire, and ask the garage door company whether the opener you are considering carries a recognized certification mark.

Q2

New ceiling outlet for an opener in Barrhaven: who can install it?

A new ceiling outlet is electrical work under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, so an ESA notification is required before the work begins.

Two paths are open. If you hire someone, the work must be done by a Licensed Electrical Contractor, and that contractor files the ESA notification. If you do the work yourself in your own home, you file the notification with the Electrical Safety Authority before starting. The Electrical Safety Authority puts it plainly: "The only way to be sure that hired electrical work is safe and legal is with a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) who gets a permit from the Electrical Safety Authority."

There is no garage door trade licence in Ontario. The 144 trades prescribed under O. Reg. 876/21 do not include a door or garage trade, Hired wiring is a Licensed Electrical Contractor's work, whoever coordinates the job.

A couple of things worth confirming before any work starts: ask the electrical contractor whether the ESA notification covers the full scope of the ceiling outlet job, and ask the garage door company whether their quote assumes an outlet is already in place or whether they are pricing the electrical work separately.

Comparing quotes is easiest when each one spells out what parts are included, what labour covers, and whether the outlet installation is priced as part of the garage door job or billed separately by an electrical contractor.

Q3

Can a garage door company in Kanata add the outlet for my new opener?

Adding a new outlet is electrical work under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, so it needs an ESA notification filed before the work starts.

A garage door company can handle the door and opener installation, but the outlet is a separate matter. If the company wants to add the outlet themselves, the person doing that electrical work must be a Licensed Electrical Contractor, and they file the ESA notification. If the garage door company does not do that electrical work itself, ask whether it brings in a Licensed Electrical Contractor, or whether you hire one separately to add the outlet before the opener goes in.

The Electrical Safety Authority puts it plainly: almost all electrical work must be reported to ESA by filing a notification of work before it begins. If you hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor, they file it. If you are doing the work yourself in your own home, you file it.

A few things worth asking before you agree to anything:

- Does the quote cover the outlet, or does it cover only the opener and its installation?
- If the outlet is included, is the person doing that work a Licensed Electrical Contractor who will file the ESA notification?
- If the outlet is not included, does the opener price assume a working outlet is already there?

Getting those answers in writing before work starts keeps the scope clear and avoids a surprise on the final bill. Ask the garage door company upfront whether their quote includes a Licensed Electrical Contractor for the outlet, because if it does not, you will need to arrange that piece separately before the opener goes in.

Q4

Who files the ESA notification when an Ottawa opener needs a new circuit?

The person doing the electrical work files the ESA notification. The Ontario Electrical Safety Code requires almost all electrical work to be reported to the Electrical Safety Authority by filing a notification of work before the work begins.

If you hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor, they file the notification. If you do the wiring yourself in your own home, you file it. The Electrical Safety Authority puts it plainly: even for little jobs, the notification must be filed before work starts.

A new circuit or outlet for a garage door opener is electrical work that falls under this requirement. If you hire someone for the new wiring, the Electrical Safety Authority says "The only way to be sure that hired electrical work is safe and legal is with a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) who gets a permit from the Electrical Safety Authority." That contractor files the notification. Ask the garage door company whether its quote includes that contractor or leaves the wiring to you to arrange.

The City of Ottawa is not involved in the wiring: a building permit for a wider or new opening is a separate matter, and an ESA notification does not cover the opening.

For the opener itself, published 2025–2026 estimates from Ottawa garage door companies put a new belt-drive opener, installed, at about $500 to $950 before tax; ask whether the wiring is inside that price or a separate line.

One thing worth confirming before any work begins: ask the garage door company whether the job needs a new circuit, and if it does, ask whether they are arranging a Licensed Electrical Contractor or whether you need to hire one separately.

Q5

Does the City of Ottawa issue an electrical permit for a garage door opener?

The City of Ottawa does not issue electrical permits. Electrical work in Ontario is regulated by the Electrical Safety Authority, and the ESA is the body you notify, not the City.

Here is how the two systems divide the work. If installing a new opener requires a new outlet or circuit, that is electrical work under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. The ESA requires a notification of work before that work begins. If you hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to do the wiring, they file the notification. If you do the wiring

yourself in your own home, you file it. The ESA's position is that almost all electrical work must be reported to them this way, even for small jobs.

The City of Ottawa's permit system covers the door opening itself, not the wiring. The City's exempt list says replacing a door in the same-size opening does not need a building permit. If the opening is being enlarged, that is a structural alteration and a City building permit is required. An opener installation does not appear on either the City's exempt list or its permit list, so if that question comes up for your job, ask the City directly.

One point worth knowing: the City's building permit and the ESA notification are separate processes run by separate bodies. A building permit does not cover electrical work, and an ESA notification does not cover the structural opening.

Ask the garage door company, in writing, whether your job needs any new outlet or circuit and whether the opening changes size. Those two answers tell you whether ESA, the City, both or neither are involved.

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.