

When a double garage door stops [garage door repair near me](#) operating smoothly, frayed or broken lift cables are often a hidden culprit. Cable replacement may sound straightforward, but double-width doors introduce unique loads, hardware configurations, and safety risks that set them apart from single doors. This guide explains when and how to address cable issues on double garage doors, what makes these systems special, and how to ensure a safe, durable repair alongside related maintenance items such as Broken springs, Roller repair, Track alignment, Motor replacement, Noisy garage door diagnostics, Door balance issues, Sensor malfunction checks, Opener repair, and Preventative maintenance.

Garage door supplier

Understanding the role of lift cables Lift cables bear the brunt of lifting and lowering the door, transferring torque from the torsion springs (or extension springs in older systems) to the [garage door companies](#) bottom brackets of the door. On a double garage door—typically 16 feet wide or more—the door sections are heavier, flex more across the **garage door companies** span, and place greater demand on cables and drums. Even slight fraying, kinking, or rust can lead to uneven lifting, door racking, and accelerated wear on rollers, hinges, and tracks.

Why double doors require special attention

- Higher loads: Double doors weigh more, increasing stress on cables, drums, and springs. Small defects become big problems faster.
- Wider span: The door can twist if one cable stretches or slips, leading to Door balance issues, Track alignment problems, and binding.
- Paired components: Cables, springs, and drums must be matched as a set. Replacing a single component without system matching can cause premature failure.
- Safety risk: A snapped cable on a heavy door can drop a section suddenly. With torsion springs under tension, DIY attempts can be dangerous.

Common symptoms indicating cable trouble

- Uneven door movement or one side rising higher than the other
- Frayed strands visible near the bottom brackets or at the drum
- Slack cable wraps on one drum
- Door won't open more than a few inches, or slams shut
- Noisy garage door behavior including grinding or scraping near the drums
- Bottom bracket deformation or missing fasteners

Inspection best practices

- Disconnect the opener and operate the door manually to feel for roughness and imbalance.
- With the door closed, visually inspect cables along their full length. Look for corrosion, flattened sections, kinks, frays, or bird-nesting at the drum.
- Check drum set screws, keyways, and shaft for slippage.
- Inspect bottom brackets for cracks and verify cotter pins/fasteners are intact.
- Evaluate springs for gaps or distortion; Broken springs often masquerade as cable problems and vice versa.

Safety note: Never loosen torsion spring hardware without proper tools and training. The stored energy can cause severe injury.

How pros approach cable replacement on double doors

1. Verify system type and sizing

- Confirm torsion vs extension springs, track radius, drum size, and cable length/diameter.
- Double-check door weight and spring configuration. Many double doors use dual torsion springs; replacing cables without addressing fatigued springs can lead to immediate re-failure.

1. De-tension and secure

- Fully close the door, clamp tracks above the bottom rollers, and disconnect the opener.
- Carefully de-tension torsion springs using winding bars; for extension systems, secure safety cables and relieve tension.

1. Replace as a matched pair

- Replace both left and right lift cables simultaneously.
- Inspect and clean drums; replace worn drums to prevent cable walk-off.
- Route cables precisely over the drums and into bottom bracket sheaves, ensuring no twists and correct seating in drum grooves.

1. Re-tension, balance, and align

- Tension springs to the manufacturer's spec, then test Door balance issues: the door should stay at mid-travel with minimal drift.
- Fine-tune Track alignment so the door runs true without rubs.
- Perform Roller repair or replacement if bearings are rough or stems bent.

1. Opener and safety systems check

- Reconnect opener, test force settings, and perform Sensor malfunction checks for photo-eyes.
- Address Noisy garage door sources such as loose hinges, worn rollers, or misaligned tracks.
- Consider Opener repair or Motor replacement if the operator strains or stalls under proper door balance.

Key considerations specific to double doors

- Cable grade and diameter: Heavier doors often spec 7x7 or 7x19 galvanized or stainless wire rope. Using undersized cable can cause premature fray.
- Drum selection: Larger doors may require high-lift or heavy-duty drums with deeper grooves to prevent cable stacking.
- Bottom brackets: Reinforced brackets are essential; if they are bent, replace them and confirm fasteners secure into solid framing.
- Spring pairing: With double doors, torsion springs are typically paired and should be replaced together if wear is evident. New cables with fatigued springs is a short-lived fix.
- Travel smoothness: A wide door magnifies misalignment. After cable work, ensure vertical and horizontal tracks are plumb and parallel, and hinges articulate freely.
- Environmental exposure: Coastal or damp garages corrode cables faster. Stainless cables and sealed rollers may be worth the upgrade.

Integrating related repairs for a complete solution

- Broken springs: Inspect and replace in pairs; retension to match cable path and drum configuration.

- **Roller repair:** Swap worn nylon or steel rollers with sealed-bearing models for quieter operation and reduced track wear.
- **Track alignment:** Adjust for correct spacing and plumb; eliminate rub points that shred cables.
- **Motor replacement:** If the opener is near end-of-life or underpowered for a double door, replace with a higher HP or DC belt-drive unit with soft start/stop.
- **Noisy garage door:** Lubricate hinges, springs (with appropriate lubricant), and bearings; tighten hardware; eliminate resonance.
- **Door balance issues:** Validate balance after cable replacement; rebalance springs as needed.
- **Sensor malfunction:** Clean lenses, verify alignment, and ensure stable mounting.
- **Opener repair:** Recalibrate travel limits and force; replace worn sprockets, belts, or gears.
- **Preventative maintenance:** Schedule annual service that includes cable inspection, drum and spring checks, hardware torquing, and lubrication.

DIY vs professional service While some homeowners handle minor garage door tasks, cable replacement on a double door is a high-risk job because it involves spring tension management, heavy panels, and precise alignment. A professional technician will bring the correct cables, drums, and tools; assess the entire lift system; and warranty the work. If you do attempt minor upkeep, limit it to visual inspections, track cleaning, light lubrication, and safety sensor checks.

How to extend cable life

- Keep tracks clean and free from debris that could snag or abrade cables.
- Avoid over-lubricating cables; oils can attract grit. Instead, focus lubrication on hinges, bearings, and springs.
- Address water intrusion at the door threshold; install proper seals and improve drainage.
- Replace worn rollers and correct Track alignment to stop side loading that leads to cable fray.
- Conduct periodic Preventative maintenance with a qualified technician, especially for double doors that see frequent cycles.

Cost and timing expectations

- Cable replacement on a double door typically takes 60–120 minutes when performed with related adjustments.
- Costs vary by region, cable grade, and whether additional parts (springs, drums, rollers) are needed. Bundling Roller repair, Track alignment, and Opener repair can be more economical than piecemeal fixes.

Bottom line On double garage doors, cable replacement is rarely an isolated task. The best outcomes come from addressing the entire lift system—cables, drums, springs, rollers, tracks, and opener—in one coordinated service, followed by simple, consistent Preventative maintenance. Doing so restores safe, quiet operation, prevents repeat failures, and extends the life of your door and operator.



Questions and Answers

Q1: Can I replace only one cable if just one looks damaged? A1: No. On double doors, always replace cables as a matched pair. Mismatched stretch and wear can cause racking, Door balance issues, and accelerated component wear.

Q2: My door is noisy after cable replacement. Is that normal? A2: Some noise can occur initially, but persistent Noisy garage door operation usually points to Roller repair needs, Track alignment adjustments, or spring tension fine-tuning. Inspect and lubricate moving parts and verify opener settings.

Q3: Do I need new springs when I replace cables? A3: Not always, but inspect carefully. If springs are near their cycle limit, show gaps, rust, or distortion, replacing them with the cables prevents rework and ensures proper balance on a heavy double door.



Q4: How can I tell if my opener needs repair or replacement? A4: If the balanced door moves smoothly by hand but the opener strains, stalls, or reverses, consider Opener repair for travel/force recalibration. If the motor is noisy, underpowered, or obsolete, a Motor replacement with a higher-capacity unit is advisable.

Q5: How often should a double garage door be serviced? A5: At least annually. A Preventative maintenance visit should include cable and drum inspection, spring balance checks, Roller repair or replacement as needed, Track alignment verification, and safety Sensor malfunction tests.