

## Chain Drive vs. Belt Drive Garage Door Opener

Quick decision guide for Ottawa homeowners

### How they compare

<b>Noise level</b>	Chain: loud, metallic clatter. Belt: quiet, smooth, almost silent.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Chain: 15 to 20 years. Belt: 10 to 15 years (rubber-reinforced).
<b>Upfront cost</b>	Chain: \$250 to \$450 unit. Belt: \$350 to \$700 unit.
<b>Installed price</b>	Chain: \$550 to \$850 installed. Belt: \$700 to \$1,200 installed.
<b>Maintenance</b>	Chain: lubricate yearly. Belt: minimal, occasional alignment check.
<b>Cold weather</b>	Chain: tightens in deep cold, may need adjustment. Belt: holds tension better.
<b>Lifting capacity</b>	Chain: heavier doors, double-car. Belt: standard residential.
<b>Best for</b>	Chain: detached garages. Belt: attached garages, bedroom-over-garage.

### Quick decision

Pick CHAIN if: budget is tight, garage is detached, or you have a heavy double-car door.

Pick BELT if: bedroom sits above the garage, you want quiet operation, or you run the door before 7am or after 10pm.

Pick a DC motor unit either way. AC motors are dated and noisier.

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