

Visual appearance of garage doors

A new garage door can be a significant investment that will transform the appearance of your home. This information sheet is a guide to the quality you can expect.

The quality check

The quality check should be carried out in natural daylight, not direct sunlight. Stand at a distance of 3 metres from the door to view the overall appearance.

The door is acceptable if, taking into account the facts below, none of the following is readily visible on the face of the door:

- marks or distortion associated with the manufacturing process
- minor indentations, marks or scuffs on the surface
- paint or stain blemishes

THE FACTS

STEEL DOORS

Panel distortion	The rolling or pressing of steel panels during manufacture will cause distortion in the steel and, while every effort is made to keep this to a minimum, inevitably some visible distortion will remain. The application of high gloss paints will make this slight distortion more apparent, especially under certain lighting conditions such as car headlamps or bright sunshine. It is therefore recommended that a matt or semi gloss finish be applied to the door.
Paint finish good quality	Primed doors – the primer coating is applied as a base coat only and as such requires additional finishing with a good quality exterior paint - Any marks or scratches on the primer coat should be rubbed down and repainted as part of this finishing process. Fully finished doors – the factory application of the paint finish is an automated process and this may result in minor blemishes or slight inconsistencies in the paint, particularly in the area of panel joints.

TIMBER DOORS

Timber	Timber is a natural product and there will be variations in pattern, colour, shading and grains. No two doors will be the same. Because wood naturally expands and contracts according to environmental conditions, joints will open and close and some minor curvature may occur.
Finishing	It is vital that timber doors are fully finished as per the manufacturer's instructions before exposure to the elements.

GRP AND COMPOSITE PLASTIC DOORS

Mould marks	GRP doors are individually handcrafted in a mould and are then hand finished. Some minor marks and blemishes will inevitably remain after this process.
Translucency	When viewed from the inside, it is often possible to see variations in the translucency of the door, particularly around and between areas of relief. Such variations do not detract from the overall strength or build quality of the door.

ALL DOORS

Colour match	Pairs of doors should be ordered together to obtain the best colour match, bearing in mind the limitations of the materials used in construction.
Size variations	As the size of a door changes in height and/or width, the panel frequency and profile can change, therefore doors of the same style but of different sizes can be significantly different in appearance.
Clearances	All doors require operating clearances, ie the gap around the door panel. These are inbuilt during manufacture and should not be reduced by means of infills or draught proofing.
Deflection	When in the open position, all doors will display a level of vertical deflection or 'sag' across the width of the panel. Individual manufacturer's specifications should be consulted for exact tolerances.

