



## How to Replace Garage Door Torsion Springs

For purposes of this illustration, we will focus on sectional overheads which are normally the standard garage doors of choice. You will notice that there are torsion springs that are mounted on either side. These will be held back by an anchor bracket. Normally this has to be above the middle section.

1. **Setting the Cable Drums:** Check the owner's manual to identify the correct placement of the cables. Ensure that they are within position. If there is a slight movement to the left or right then gently nudge them back into position. Examine the cable drum which is normally made of cast aluminum alloy measuring 4 inches in diameter and 12.6 inches in circumference. Make sure that the cable drum is around the flat portion away from the end bearing plate. Unwrap the cable between the drum and the door.
2. **Placing the new cable:** The cables that are going to be used should already be readily available. Run your hands along them to ensure that there are no kinks. It goes without saying that installing a faulty cable is almost as bad as not installing one at all. Get the cable drums inside or outside of the end plate depending on how your installation is structure. Wind the torsion springs up. Some versions actually wind down and that is why it is very important to follow the manual strictly.
3. **Mounting wind springs:** You then need to separate the left wind from the right wind springs. Mount each one of them in the right direction. Check them for firmness and that none of the cables are running wild. Put the end bearing plate on the shaft well beyond the torsion spring. Take care not to damage the winding unit which is important for securing the stationary zone. For this you can use a spanner tool or even a pipe wrench. Another alternative is a relatively large channel lock. It will then lock into the hook at the end of the spring after removing it from the cones.
4. **Counterbalancing:** Remember that older torsion springs have a slightly different model for counterbalancing. This is where human judgment is needed. If it is too loose then the springs might break open thus potentially causing an accident. On the other hand springs that are too tight will also impede the functionality of the garage door. You may use a spring conversion leaflet to let you better understand the relationship between the spring tightness and the functionality of the apparatus.

5. **Broken springs:** Where it is clear that one or more of the springs is broken, it is a very good idea not to open or close the door until the broken spring is replaced. It is a well known fact that springs have an extremely high tension level and this latent power can quickly cause serious damage not only to the structure but also to the person working on it. Even seemingly light wooden doors can be incredibly heavy. Steel normally reacts by simply bending if the spring is not working as it should.

**Materials Required:** You will need the accurate dimensions of the torsion springs, the weight of the garage door, model specifications, size measurements, cable drum circumference, and track radius. You will also need a basic toolkit for garage door repair and an owner's manual. Work in pairs if you can because of the potential for accidents.

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