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How to Rodent Proof
Sectional and Single Panel Garage Doors
With STRAIGHT Proofing Strips
Installed by Means of Screws and Washers Only
July 2021

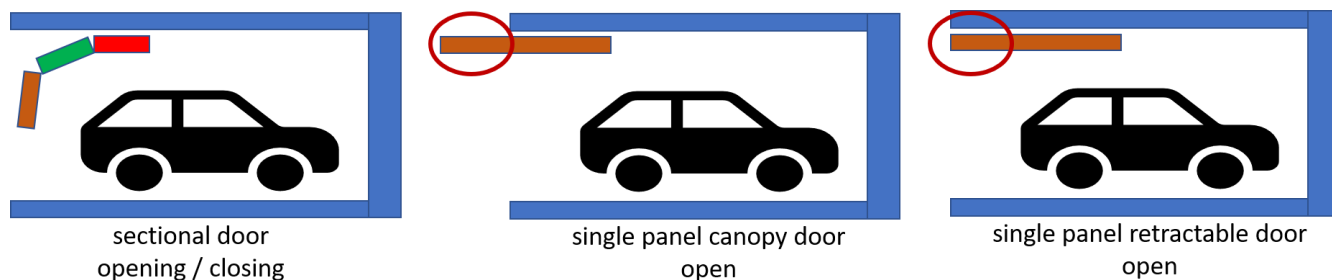
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1 IMPORTANT INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Gaps and the Garage Doors

This is a guide on the rodent proofing of up to 1.4 in (3½ cm) wide threshold gaps and side gaps of sectional and single panel garage doors:



The proofing of wooden garage doors is described in section 2. The proofing of garage doors of metal is described in section 3. In section 4 you will find some tips and tricks.

1.2 Installation With or Without a Mounting Strip

The STRAIGHT proofing strip can be installed on a garage door with or without the use of a mounting strip. A mounting strip is used when an aesthetically more pleasing installation is called for:



This guide doesn't cover installation with the use of a mounting strip. A guide on how to rodent proof garages with STRAIGHT proofing strips installed by means of mounting strips can be found on www.ro-dexit.com.

1.3 Do Not Press the Proofing Strip Hard Against the Threshold or the Side Jambs

The proofing strip should make featherlight contact only with the threshold and the side jambs.



1.4 Bottom Weather Seals

If there is a bottom weather seal under the garage door, and it is OK, leave it on.



If it isn't OK, replace it and recalibrate the door opener if any before installing the STRAIGHT proofing strip.

1.5 Monitoring and Maintenance

All rodent proofed garage doors should at regular intervals be monitored for maintenance needs and the proofing strips should be fixed or replaced if they are seriously compromised – for example due to severe rodent attacks.



2 PROOFING WOODEN GARAGE DOORS

2.1 Tools and Materials

You will need these tools and materials:

- A. A roll of the rodent resistant STRAIGHT proofing strip.
- B. Tin snips for trimming the proofing strip – preferably straight tin snips with long blades.
- C. Suitable flatheaded screws for example 1 inch (25 mm) long No. 10 (4.8 mm) hex head screws or pan head screws.
- D. Corresponding washers.
- E. A corresponding screw bit.
- F. A cordless screwdriver.
- G. Possibly: A drill bit for drilling pilot holes in the garage door.



If you want to get both hands free for screwing the proofing strip onto the garage door, it is handy also to have

- a couple of heavy objects for holding the proofing strip in place during the installation,
- blobs of sticky power tack for temporarily attaching the proofing strip, and/or
- a staple gun and staples for temporarily attaching the proofing strip (if the door is a wooden one):



2.2 Proofing the Threshold Gap

The STRAIGHT proofing strip shall be mounted on the exterior side of the garage door. It must be possible to secure screws firmly in the lowermost 1½ in (4 cm) of the door.

Follow these steps:

1. If the door is equipped with side seals of the clip-on reverse angle jamb type (clipped onto the garage door tracks),
 - a. ~~dismount the side seals and~~
 - b. install ordinary stop molding side seals or brush seals as replacements after installing the proofing strip.



2. Close the garage door completely.



3. If there is an automatic opener, unplug it.



4. If there is a left side seal, tuck the free end of the roll behind it (if necessary after loosening it):



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb



Tucked under brush side seal installed on the door

If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seal:

- loosen it or
- dismount it and remount it after installing the proofing strip.

NB: A sectional garage door will often move somewhat inwards when it starts opening, and that reduces the need for space behind the side seal.

5. Secure the free end of the proofing strip roll to the left side of the door:



No side seal.



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb.



Tucked under brush side seal installed on the door.

If the garage door is a retractable single panel door, the proofing strip shouldn't extend beyond the left edge of the door panel. Otherwise, it is OK to let it extend all the way to the left side jamb.

6. Unroll a little more of the proofing strip than you need for proofing the threshold gap:



7. Cut off a slightly oversized piece.



8. Place a screw with a washer in every or every second of the upper dot-shaped screw hole markings from left to right until you are around 2 feet (60 cm) from the right side jamb – if necessary, after drilling pilot holes in the door:



OR



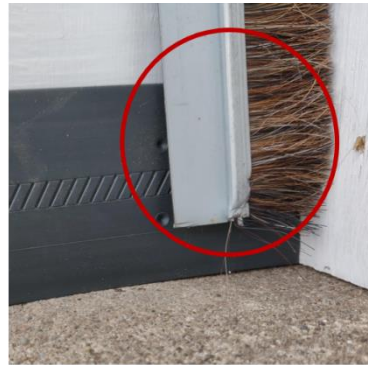
9. Trim the right end of the oversized proofing strip. If the garage door is a retractable single panel door, the proofing strip shouldn't extend beyond the right edge of the door panel. Otherwise, it is OK to let it extend all the way to the right side jamb.



10. If there is a right side seal, tuck the free end of the trimmed proofing strip behind the side seal:



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb.



Tucked under brush side seal installed on the door.

If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seal:

- loosen it or
- dismount it and remount it after installing the proofing strip.

NB: A sectional garage door will often move somewhat inwards when it starts opening, and that reduces the need for space behind the side seals.

11. Secure the last 2 feet (60 cm) of the proofing strip to the door.

12. Retighten any loosened side seals, reinstall any temporarily dismantled side seals, and install any replacement side seals.

13. Open and close the garage door in order to secure that it operates satisfactorily.



If it doesn't, you can probably solve the problem by doing one or more of the following:

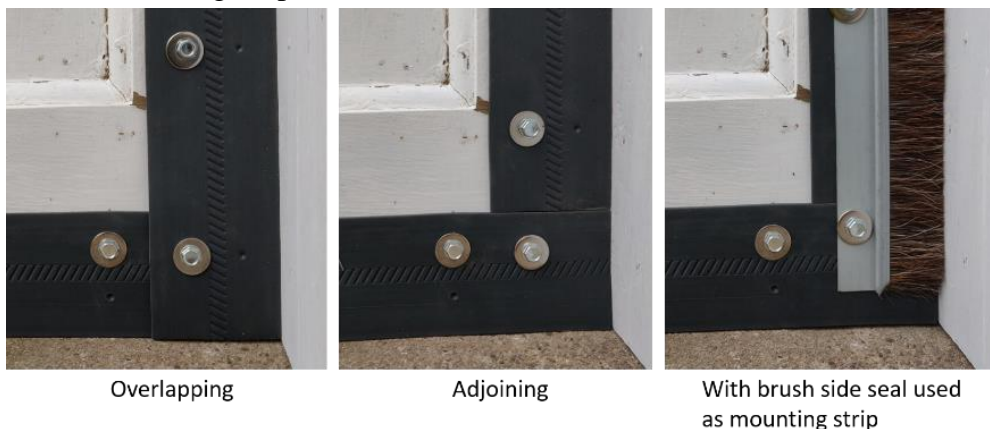
- Adjust the opening and closing power of the opener – if any. Check the owner's manual and follow the instructions.
- Adjust the position of the side seals if any.
- If there are side weather seals of the stop molding type, replace them with brush seals.
- Adjust the garage door rails. Check the owner's manual and follow the instructions.

2.3 Proofing the Side Gaps

2.3.1 Installation of the STRAIGHT Proofing Strip

The STRAIGHT proofing strip is secured to the door in much the same way as when you proof the threshold gap. Use a top-down approach.

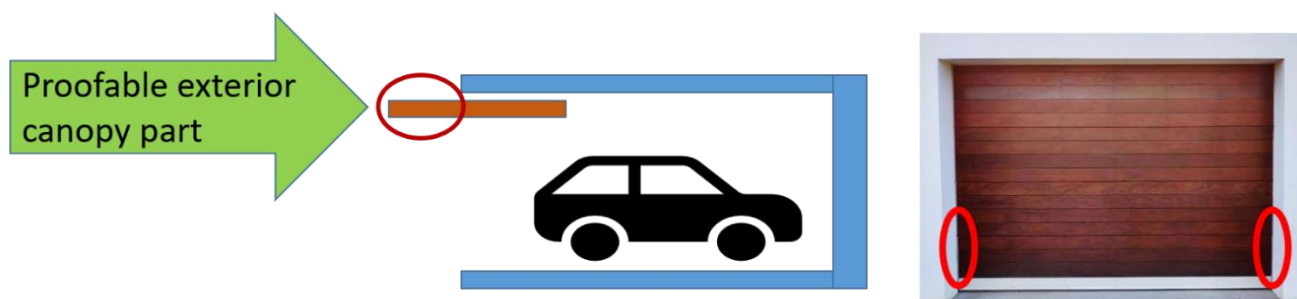
The proofing strips that meet in the corners may be installed overlapping or just adjoining. A brush side seal may be used as mounting strip:



A 2½ in (6½ cm) or more wide brush strip will cover all of the proofing strip.

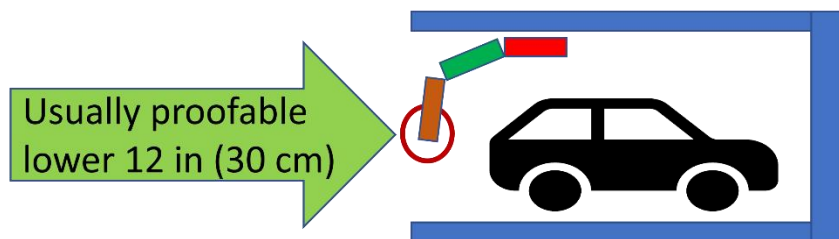
2.3.2 Single Panel Canopy Doors

The STRAIGHT proofing strip can be used for rodent proofing the lower part of the side gaps of a single panel canopy door that corresponds to the exterior canopy part of the door.



2.3.3 Sectional Doors

It is usually feasible to rodent proof the lowermost 12 in (30 cm) of the side gaps with STRAIGHT proofing strips without impeding the opening and closing of the garage door.



Should the proofing strips rub against the side jambs in a way that interferes with the operation of the door or damages the proofing strips, you can try A) to install the proofing strips at a slight distance to the side jambs and B) to replace the STRAIGHT proofing strips with WAVE door sweeps.

If the sectional garage door is equipped with ordinary stop molding side seals on the side jambs, you can also use a “Garage Door Rodent Guard” kit from The Rickford Company for rodent proofing the lower part of the side seals and thereby the lower part of the side gaps:



2.3.4 Single Panel Retractable Doors

Don't use the STRAIGHT proofing strip for rodent proofing the side gaps of single panel retractable garage doors. The best solution is probably to install a set of high quality brush side seals.

3 PROOFING GARAGE DOORS OF METAL

3.1 Tools and Materials

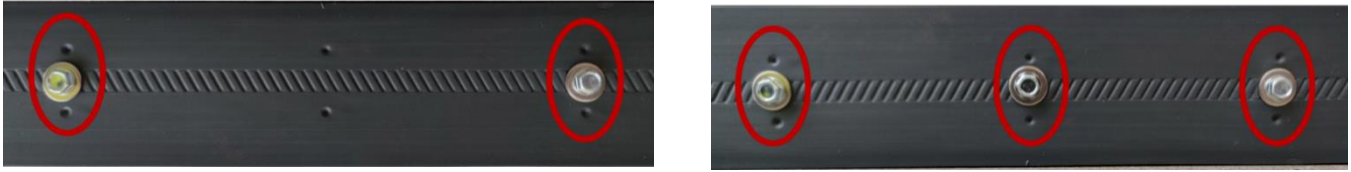
You will need the tools and materials listed in section 2.1.

It is generally a good idea to use self-drilling screws with a drill point.

3.2 Proofing the Threshold Gap and the Side Gaps

A garage door of metal is proofed in much the same way as a wooden door – except that staples cannot be used for temporarily attaching the proofing strip to the door.

The screws must be secured firmly in solid structural parts. Because of that they are often placed somewhere else than in the dot-shaped screw hole markings – for example like this:



The screws are usually secured in the base of the door when the threshold gap is proofed.

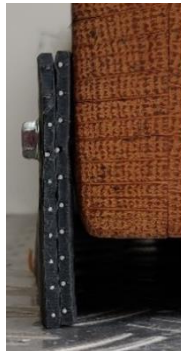
4 TIPS AND TRICKS

4.1 The Instructional Video

On www.rodexit.com you can watch an instructional video on how to proof garage doors with the STRAIGHT proofing strip installed by means of screws and washers only.

4.2 If a Very High Degree of Protection is Required

Under normal circumstances it is sufficient to install a single layer. If a particularly high degree of protection is required – for example because of a very high rodent pressure – you should consider installing a double layer:



A double layer is installed in the same way as a single layer.

4.3 How to Handle Very Uneven Thresholds

If the garage door threshold is so uneven that there will be substantial gaps under the STRAIGHT proofing strip, the threshold should be repaired before installing the proofing strip.

Though it is not the optimal solution, you can as an alternative cut the STRAIGHT proofing strip in several pieces and mount them overlapping and at an angle as exaggeratedly illustrated here:



Another way of dealing with uneven thresholds is to supplement the STRAIGHT proofing strip with a brush strip that conforms better to uneven surfaces. It can be used as mounting strip:



4.4 Why Are Tin Snips with Long Blades Best?

Straight tin snips with long blades are better than straight tin snips with ordinary blades first and foremost because it is a lot easier to make straight cuts with the long blades.



Furthermore, it is possible to cut the STRAIGHT proofing strip in a single clip if you have strong hands.

4.5 Installation Without Washers

Washers are used in order to avoid driving the screws through the proofing strip. If you use pan head screws and a properly adjusted drywall screwdriver or screw depth setter, you can do away with the washers. That may save costs and time.