

Garage Doors

Drive through any suburban tract neighborhood and you'll see garage doors featured prominently in most designs. It's not that the architect was trying to make a statement about garages or cars, it's just the result of small lots and the average homebuyer's perceived preference for a two-car garage. To get away from the garage-front, try to recess the garage, use separate doors for each car, or, if you have room, orient the garage so it doesn't face the street.

Paint the doors to match the siding, or at least choose a neutral color. Don't assume that because they are doors you should paint them like other trim.

Sectional doors, which roll up along overhead tracks, are preferable to the old-fashioned swing-up doors. They're easiest to open and they don't require extra clearance outside the garage. Single garage doors measure 8, 9 or 10 ft. wide. Doubles run 16 or 18 ft. wide.