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How to align garage door sensors

If your garage door is going down and reversing back up try this simple solution to get it fixed. The lights on both the sending and receiving sensors will glow steadily when the wiring connections and alignment are correct. The amber light on the sending sensor will glow regardless of alignment or obstruction. (Meaning this light will always be on no matter what) If the green light on the receiving sensor is off, dim, or flickering (and the invisible light beam path is not obstructed) , alignment is required. Note: On the older safety sensors both lights are green. The receiving sensors are the sensors that the green light goes out when you pass your hand in front of the sensors. The sending sensor stays solid. Before you take off the photo eye try just adjusting it to make it see the other one by wiggling it into place if that does not work take the following steps. Remove the receiving sensor (green light) from bracket. You can do so by taking off the wing nut. Point the sensor away from the sending sensor, so that the light is completely off. Once the light is off, wait 10 seconds. Slowly rotate sensor back, aligning sensor with sending sensor, until it lights up green again. When you have a strong green light, put it back into the bracket and put the wing nut back on. Note: If you are unable to get the door closed and the safety sensors are the issue, the garage door can be closed by pressing and holding the push button on the wall until down travel is completed. If you still are having trouble please do not hesitate to give Justin a call at (832) 928-4407 The Woodlands Garage Door Service www.woodlandsgaragedoor.com www.facebook.com/thewoodlandsgaragedoorservice CCO/therebearagency/Pixabay A big garage can be a workshop for your projects, a place to store your expensive tools, a home for your car or a getaway for you when you need a break from the family. In truth, a garage does all of these jobs for most homeowners so this is a more important room of the house than most of us realize. If you're shopping for a new garage door to replace one that's seen better days, you have lots of choices. Do you go for a sliding, folding, up-and-over or roll-up door? Do you buy a steel, wood or composite door? Get it right and you won't need to replace the door for a long time. Door Repair Should you repair your existing door or replace it? The door is made up of lots of parts so repairing a garage door isn't like maintaining any other door in the home. You might have hinges that are worn or an opening mechanism that jams. Whatever the issue, in most cases you'll need an expert. Garage doors develop both mechanical and electrical faults. You could have a problem with the belt drive and the sensor for example, which are two parts of the garage door opener that require different skills to repair. Photoelectric Sensors Your door's photoelectric sensors, which prevent the door from closing when a person or object is in the doorway, sometimes develop a fault that's easily fixed so if you find that your garage doors won't close when you ask them to, it might be that the sensors are not aligned. There are two sensors placed about six inches from the ground that have to be lined up with one another in order to work. One sensor sends a beam towards the other so if one is misaligned, the door will not close. This is an easy fix as you can adjust the bracket housing one of the sensors until they are aligned again. Servicing How often should the garage door be serviced? Most experts recommend that the door is serviced once a year even if no issues arise. Your garage door is opened no matter what the weather is like outside so it will be damaged over time with use and through the weather so it needs to be looked at. Having a service will prolong the life of your garage door as the engineer will lubricate areas of the door, tighten up bolts and screws and adjust the spring tensions to make sure the door works as it was designed to. New Door Prices Let's consider the cost of a new door so you can work out if maintaining or repairing the existing door makes financial sense. The cost of the door depends on the size of the garage, the material uses in constructing the door and the opening mechanism used. A wooden door on a typical eight or nine-foot single garage would be the cheapest option. If the door opening is a simple manual operation, you'll save even more of your hard-earned dollars. New Door Options Do you opt for a steel door or go for something else? The typical steel door is made of two layers of galvanized steel that's primed or painted with a strong topcoat. Steel doors are great because they can be painted to match your home and can be bought with or without insulation, however dents and corrosion can limit the life of a steel door. Wooden doors in cedar or redwood look great but they're not as durable as steel doors so perhaps a wood composite is the answer. These doors have a wooden frame covered with fiberglass sheets. They look like natural wood but have none of the disadvantages. Garage Door Openers Whether you need a door that opens at the push of a button for security reasons, for convenience or for a little of both, a belt-driven door opener adds to the home. They are easy to install and even the budget models are reliable and powerful enough to open the heaviest doors. You'll expect a remote control and a multi-function wall control with any garage door opener but opt for a wireless keyless entry system because that includes a keypad to open the door, which is ideal if there are lots of family members using the garage. MORE FROM LIFE123.COM Your garage door is equipped with a number of safety features that prevent damage to property or the door itself, as well as features that are meant to prevent any danger to you or your loved ones. Sometimes, these features aren't working properly — and that can lead to a shutdown of your garage door. The door's safety reversing sensors are vitally important but potentially frustrating if misaligned. To learn how to diagnose and fix any issues with your safety reversing sensors, see the video. Signs of Misalignment You'll notice that your garage door's safety reversing sensors are misaligned when the door won't close from the remote and you see the garage door opener's lights flashing. Most garage door openers have self-diagnostic capabilities and will know what's going on. For example, a LiftMaster garage door opener with Security Plus 2.0 features up and down arrow lights. If the safety reversing sensors are out of alignment, the up arrow will flash four times followed by the down arrow flashing six times. Similarly, on other LiftMaster garage doors, the Learn LED light will flash four times every 10 seconds when the safety reversing sensors are misaligned. How to Solve the Problem Your safety reversing sensors are located on either side of your garage door's threshold. Find the receiving sensor, which features a green LED light. When your sensors are misaligned, these green LED lights will be off entirely, flickering or dim. Loosen the wing nut that keeps the sensor in place and then move the sensor around until it glows steadily and brightly. This indicates it's back in alignment. Test It Out Before your job is done, you'll want to test and make sure your safety reversing mechanism is working properly. While the garage door is closing, use a broom handle or something similar to wave across the threshold and break the sensors' beams. If the sensors are back in alignment and working properly, the garage door should immediately begin reversing. Get Help From Broten When your garage door's sensors aren't working properly and you can't seem to figure out why, call on the team at Broten Garage Door Sales. Since 1955, we've been serving Broward and Palm Beach Counties in Florida with the best in local garage door maintenance, repair and installation. We can help with garage door maintenance tips, garage door safety tips and the best in garage door service. Contact us today about local garage door maintenance in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Is your garage door not working as intended? Do you have to leave the comfort of your car and manually open it every time you return home? Then it's time for you to roll up your sleeves and learn how to align garage door sensors. Here's why we're saying that. The functionality of garage doors depends on their sensors. One of them (the emitter) sends signals to the other (the receiver) that then closes your front door. However, if both of them aren't in alignment, the receiver won't receive the signals from the emitter and your door won't close. Luckily for you, it's not extremely difficult to realign garage door sensors. You can go through our below-mentioned guide to make sure of that. Or, if you have trouble understanding some of the stuff we're talking about, watch this video before scrolling down. Tools for aligning garage door sensors Here's a list of all the tools and equipment you'll need: Electrically-resistant gloves Screwdriver String Level Step-by-Step Guide for garage door sensor alignment Follow these steps to align garage door sensors. Step 1: Disconnect power supply to the garage Turn off the power supply to your sensors. You can do that by either turning off their switch (if the sensors are manually plugged into a wall outlet) or tripping the fuse of your entire garage from your home's breaker box. Make sure that you're wearing electricity-resistant gloves as you're fiddling with the wires. You might not be working with live wires. Still, we always recommend against taking any chances when your personal safety is concerned. Pro Tip: When shopping for electrically insulated gloves, specifically check out their 'Class'. Those that are rated 'Class 0' or 'Class 00' can withstand voltage of up to 500 volts AC and therefore provide adequate protection for aligning garage door sensors. Step 2: Unscrew the screws holding the sensors Loosen the mounting brackets of your garage door sensors by opening their screws. You can do that by inserting the screwdriver into the screws and turning it in the anticlockwise direction. Remember, you only have to loosen the screws. There is no need for you to take them all the way out. That's because you are going to slide the mounting brackets up and down in the upcoming steps - which won't be possible if the screws go missing. Step 3: Slide the garage door sensors downward Once you have loosened the screws and made sure that the mounting brackets can slide up and down with ease, slide the garage door sensor downward with your bare hands. Don't use a wrench to move the sensor. It will leave marks on the sensor's surface and may also disturb its functionality. Slide them as low as possible while keeping the sensors inside their mounting brackets. Step 4: Attach the string and tie the knots After sliding them as low as possible, attach one end of a string to one sensor and its mounting bracket. Tie the knot as tightly as possible as this step has a huge impact on the success (or failure) of the overall operation. Afterward, run the untied string end across the opening of your garage and roll it around the center of the opposing sensor before tying the knot in such a manner that the string runs as straight as possible. Step 5: Check the level of the string Place a level below the string and make sure that it is running level across the garage doorway. You'd have to manually press the level against the string and hold it there for a few seconds. If the line of the string is level, move on to the next step. If that isn't the case, adjust one or both sensors (by sliding their mounting brackets). Keep on adjusting until the level shows that both sensors are aligned. Step 6: Tighten the screws Once the level shows that both the sensors are on the same level, start fastening the screws. Tighten them to such an extent that you can see that even after applying effort, the garage door sensors aren't moving from their new position. After you have tightened the screws, once again use the level to make sure that both the sensors are aligned. As they can come out of alignment as you were tightening the screws. Tip: If you don't like making multiple trips across the garage's doorway (first to level both the sensors and later to tighten their screws), get a helping hand. In this way, you'd be able to finish the entire job in quick succession. Final Step After ensuring that both the sensors are level, remove the strings, turn the power to your garage back on and test the sensors. They should be working fine by now. FAQs Q: How do garage door sensors work? A: As we stated at the start of this article, your garage door has two sensors. One of them sends the signals and is therefore named as the emitter. The other which is on the receiving end is called receiver. Though you don't need to identify which of the two sensors is receiver/emitter to know how they work. Both these sensors are equipped with infrared light. This light is out of the visible spectrum and therefore cannot be seen with a naked eye. The emitter sends this light to the receiver which, on receiving it, begins the process of closing down your garage door. Since the infrared light will be traveling in a straight line between the two boxes, its interruption by any obstruction will send a signal to the receiver to cease operation. The receiver will then block the door in its current position, protecting whatever is beneath the door from getting crushed. Q: Why my garage door sensors aren't working? A: Following are some of the reasons why your garage door sensor might not be working Too much dirt has accumulated on the sensor (s) An impact has damaged its connection wires You have exposed the sensors to direct sunlight for too long. Excessive vibrations from the door have affected the sensors. The sensors aren't correctly aligned with each other Wiring is incorrect between the door opener and the sensors Q: How to tell if the garage door sensors are misaligned? A: It is only in extreme cases that misaligned door sensors stop working altogether. Prior to that, depending on your model, it might be giving these signs to tell you that everything is not hunky-dory with your garage door sensors: Up arrow flashing four times, down arrow flashing 6 times Provided you own a Security+ 2.0 garage door opener, its up arrow will flash 4 times followed by the down arrow flashing 6 times to indicate that either something is obstructing the beam between the sensors, or they are misaligned. LCD Display showing error code If your Security+ 2.0 garage door opener came with an LCD display, it would show "Error code 4-6 sensor momentarily obstructed" whenever the sensors are misaligned or something is obstructing the beam. Learn button flashing every few seconds Some garage door openers have a learn button that starts flashing 'once every 2.5 seconds' or '4 times every 10 seconds' to indicate the misalignment or obstruction of the garage door sensors. If the sensors are misaligned, or something is obstructing the path of their beam, the door will continue to close, regardless of whatever or whoever is beneath it. Q: How high off of the ground should the garage door sensors be placed? A: Regardless of the type of garage door sensors you may own, they should be placed at least 6 inches to 9 inches off the floor. It goes without saying that the distance of both the sensors (receiver and emitter) should be the same from the floor. Or else, they will be misaligned. Q: How to disable a garage door sensor? A: If you feel that your garage door sensors are malfunctioning, you need to disable them altogether or else they might cause an injury. Here's how you can do that: Disconnect them all together: You can do that by pulling out the wires that supply them electricity or manually switching them off. Set them at bypass mode: Most garage sensors that you see on the market today give you the option to set them at 'bypass mode' to circumvent the sensors. Conclusion As you have seen by now, aligning faulty garage door sensors isn't that difficult. You just need to have the right materials at your disposal and shouldn't be in a hurry to get the job done. You can get the entire process done quickly if you have a helping hand. However, regardless of whether you have company or prefer doing it alone, following our step-by-step guide will let you complete the project successfully.

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