

The True Cost of a Broken Garage Door Spring

What Gwinnett County Homeowners Are Paying for Emergency Garage Door Spring Replacement — and How to Avoid the Most Expensive Version of This Repair

Prepared by Local Garage Door Specialists | Serving Gwinnett County, Georgia

Data Sources: International Door Association (IDA) published industry statistics | Manufacturer spring cycle ratings (LiftMaster, CHI, DoorLink product documentation) | U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) injury data | U.S. Census Bureau Gwinnett County housing data

~30%

of all garage door service calls are for a broken spring — the single most common repair (industry data)

10,000

cycles is the standard spring's rated lifespan — about 7-10 years of typical use, not a fixed number of years

~26,500

estimated annual spring replacement events across Gwinnett County's garage-door-equipped homes

20K-30K

garage door-related emergency room visits nationally each year (CPSC) — many tied to DIY spring repair

BOTTOM LINE

A broken garage door spring is the single most common reason a Gwinnett County homeowner calls a garage door company — and it is also the repair homeowners are most likely to delay, ignore, or attempt themselves. Springs don't fail on a fixed calendar; they're rated in cycles, and a standard spring's 10,000-cycle rating typically runs out somewhere around 7 to 10 years, often without warning beyond subtle signs most homeowners never learn to look for. Across an estimated 225,000 Gwinnett County homes with a garage door, that translates to roughly 26,500 spring replacement events every year. The cost difference between catching a spring near the end of its life on a scheduled visit and waiting for it to snap at 10 p.m. is real — and the cost of trying to fix it yourself, given that garage doors are tied to 20,000 to 30,000 emergency room visits nationally every year, can be far higher than either.

Executive Summary

Of every service call a garage door company receives, none is more common than a broken spring — industry data consistently puts broken springs at roughly 30% of all garage door repair calls, ahead of opener failures, misaligned tracks, and every other component combined. Springs are also uniquely predictable in how they fail: manufacturers rate them in cycles, not years, which means the timing of a spring's failure is a function of how often a specific household uses its garage door, not a fixed warranty clock. A standard 10,000-cycle spring on an average household typically lasts 7 to 10 years; the same spring on a household using the garage as a primary entrance can burn through that rating in half the time.

This report combines published cycle-life data from garage door manufacturers, industry service-call statistics, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission injury data, Bureau of Labor Statistics home maintenance spending data, and Gwinnett County housing data to size this problem locally and document the real cost gap between three outcomes: catching a spring near end-of-life during a scheduled maintenance visit, replacing it in a true emergency, and attempting to replace it without professional help. The data on that third option, in particular, is worth taking seriously — garage doors are tied to 20,000 to 30,000 emergency room visits nationally every year, and springs are consistently one of the more dangerous components involved.

Finding 1 | Broken Springs Are the #1 Reason for a Garage Door

Service Call

Across compiled industry data drawn from garage door service providers and trade sources, broken springs consistently account for approximately 30% of all garage door repair calls — more than any other single component failure, including opener malfunctions, misaligned tracks and rollers, and damaged panels. Torsion springs, the type used on the large majority of modern residential garage doors, support roughly 90% of the door's total weight during operation, which is exactly why their failure is so immediately disruptive: a door with a broken spring typically cannot be opened safely by the automatic opener or by hand, trapping a vehicle inside or leaving the garage inoperable until the spring is replaced.

Roughly 3 in 10 garage door service calls are for a broken spring

Industry sources also consistently point to a second, related statistic: a large share of garage door failures generally — not just springs specifically — trace back to a lack of routine maintenance rather than a manufacturing defect or a single dramatic event. That combination — springs as the most common failure point, and neglected maintenance as the most common root cause — is exactly the pattern a scheduled inspection program is designed to interrupt.

Finding 2 | Why Springs Fail: Cycle Life, Not Calendar Age

Unlike most home components, garage door springs are not rated by the manufacturer in years — they're rated in cycles, where one cycle equals a single full open-and-close of the door. Manufacturer documentation across major residential brands consistently rates standard torsion springs at approximately 10,000 cycles, while premium high-cycle springs are rated from 25,000 up to 100,000 cycles depending on the product line. Extension springs, an older and less expensive design still found on many existing garages, typically have a shorter practical lifespan, commonly cited at 5 to 7 years even at similar cycle ratings, due to greater exposure to the elements along the horizontal tracks.

One cycle = one full open-and-close. A standard spring is rated for about 10,000 of them.

Translating a cycle rating into real time requires knowing actual daily usage. A household that opens its garage door four times a day (leaving in the morning, returning in the evening, plus two additional trips) uses roughly 1,460 cycles per year — meaning a standard 10,000-cycle spring lasts approximately 6.8 years. A household using the garage as a primary entrance six or more times a day can burn through that same spring in under 5 years. This is the calculation homeowners rarely make, and it's exactly why two neighbors with identical springs installed the same year can have one fail at year 5 and the other last well past year 10 — the difference is usage, not luck.

Spring Cycle Ratings and Approximate Lifespan by Type

Extension springs		5-7 years
Standard torsion springs (10,000 cycles)		7-10 years
High-cycle torsion springs (25,000 cycles)		15-20 years
Commercial-grade springs (up to 100,000 cycles)		20+ years

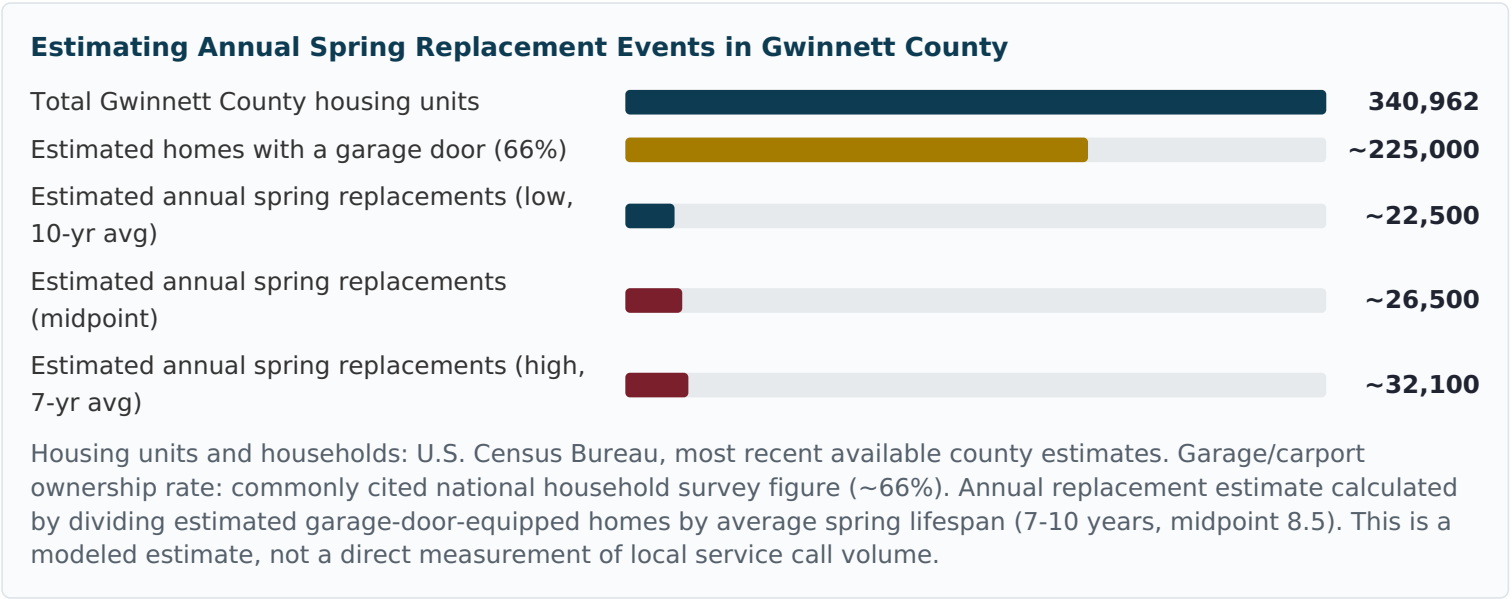
Source: Compiled manufacturer product documentation and cycle-rating specifications (LiftMaster, CHI, DoorLink, and comparable residential/commercial spring manufacturers). Actual lifespan in years depends on daily usage; ranges assume typical residential use of 3-6 cycles per day.

Finding 3 | Sizing the Problem in Gwinnett County

Gwinnett County has an estimated 340,962 total housing units and 327,043 households, with a homeownership rate of 66.3%, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data. Applying the commonly cited national rate that roughly 66% of U.S. households have a garage or carport produces a modeled estimate of approximately 225,000 Gwinnett County homes with a garage door in operation. Applying the 7-to-10-year typical spring lifespan documented in Finding 2 to that base — using a midpoint estimate of roughly 8.5 years — produces an estimated 22,500 to 32,100 spring replacement events across Gwinnett County every year, with a midpoint estimate of approximately 26,500.

An estimated 225,000 Gwinnett County homes have a garage door — and roughly 26,500 spring replacements happen every year

This is a modeled estimate built from national usage and cycle-life data applied to local housing figures, not a direct count of service calls — but it puts a concrete number on what the "most common repair call" statistic in Finding 1 actually looks like at the scale of a single county: tens of thousands of Gwinnett County households experiencing a spring failure in any given year, the overwhelming majority of whom have no way of knowing in advance which year it will be theirs.

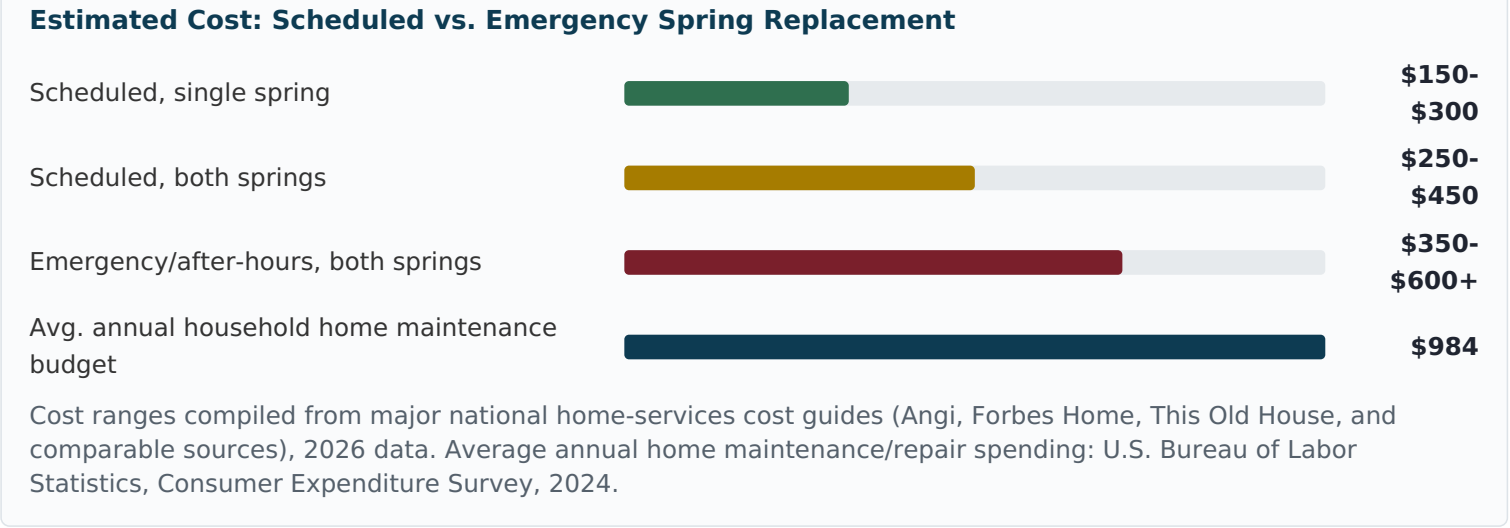


Finding 4 | The Real Cost Gap: Scheduled Maintenance vs. a 10 P.M. Emergency

National pricing data compiled across major home-services cost guides puts standard, scheduled garage door spring replacement at roughly \$150 to \$450 for a single spring, or \$250 to \$700 when both springs on a double door are replaced together — which is standard practice, since a second spring installed at the same time as the first has nearly identical wear and is likely to fail soon after if left in place. Emergency, after-hours, or same-day service typically adds \$50 to \$150 on top of the standard rate, though some companies instead charge a flat emergency trip fee in a similar range. Labor consistently accounts for the majority of the total cost — roughly 60% by some industry estimates — since the part itself (a torsion spring) typically costs \$40 to \$90, with the remainder covering a technician's specialized tools, calibration, and safety verification.

Emergency and after-hours service typically adds \$50-\$150 (or more) over a scheduled repair

Context matters here: the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey found the average American household spent \$984 total on home maintenance and repairs across all categories in 2024. A single emergency spring replacement — potentially \$400 to \$600 or more once the after-hours surcharge, both-spring replacement, and any related cable or roller work are factored in — can represent 40% to 60% or more of an entire year's typical home maintenance budget in one unplanned visit. A scheduled replacement, caught during a routine inspection before the spring fully fails, avoids both the emergency surcharge and the risk of the door being non-functional at the worst possible moment.



Finding 5 | Why DIY Is the Most Expensive Version of This Repair

The temptation to save the labor cost on a spring replacement is understandable — springs are, after all, "just" a metal coil. But springs are also the single most dangerous component on a residential garage door, precisely because of how they work: a torsion spring stores hundreds of foot-pounds of mechanical energy under tension, and that energy is released instantly and violently if the spring slips, the wrong size is installed, or a winding bar is handled incorrectly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission attributes an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 emergency room visits nationally each year to garage doors and their components, with springs and cables consistently cited among the more serious injury categories rather than minor incidents. Documented injury patterns from DIY spring work specifically include broken fingers and hands when a winding bar slips or kicks back, facial and eye injuries from a bar that flies free, and broken wrists or arms from the torque of an unwinding spring wrenching a tool out of someone's grip.

Garage doors are tied to 20,000-30,000 U.S. emergency room visits every year (CPSC)

The financial comparison is stark once an injury enters the picture: a professional spring replacement, even at emergency rates, rarely exceeds a few hundred dollars — often less than the copay alone for a single emergency room visit, before accounting for any follow-up care, lost work time, or the cost of still needing to hire a professional to finish the repair correctly. Both the American injury data and the plain mechanics of a loaded torsion spring point to the same conclusion: this is one home repair where the "save money by doing it yourself" calculation reliably runs backward.

What This Means for Gwinnett County Homeowners

- 1 Learn your door's approximate age and daily usage — then do the cycle math.**

If your garage door has original springs and your household uses the garage door more than a few times a day, a spring installed 6 to 8 years ago may already be well into its expected cycle life, regardless of how it looks. A quick inspection can tell you where you actually stand rather than guessing from the calendar.
- 2 Watch for the warning signs before the spring fully fails.**

A door that feels unusually heavy when lifted manually (with the opener disconnected), visible gaps between spring coils, or a loud bang from the garage are all signs a spring is near end-of-life. Catching these signs early is what makes a scheduled repair possible instead of an emergency one.
- 3 If one spring breaks, plan on replacing both.**

A second spring installed alongside the first carries nearly identical wear and is a strong candidate to fail soon after if left in place. Replacing both during the same visit costs less than two separate service calls and keeps the door properly balanced.

4 Consider a high-cycle spring upgrade if you use your garage door heavily.

For households that treat the garage as a primary entrance, a high-cycle spring's added upfront cost is frequently recovered within the extended service life alone — and it meaningfully reduces the odds of an inconvenient, unplanned failure.

5 Never attempt a spring repair yourself — call a professional, even after hours.

Given the documented injury patterns and the relatively modest cost of even an emergency professional repair, a broken spring is one of the clearest cases in home maintenance where professional service isn't just more convenient — it's meaningfully safer and, once an ER visit is factored into the comparison, usually cheaper too.

The Data: Garage Door Spring Reference — Gwinnett County

Data Point	Figure	Source
Share of garage door service calls involving a broken spring	~30%	Compiled industry service-call statistics
Share of garage door failures attributed to lack of maintenance	~75%	Industry sources citing IDA-adjacent data
Standard torsion spring cycle rating	~10,000 cycles	Manufacturer product documentation (LiftMaster, CHI, DoorLink)
High-cycle torsion spring rating	25,000-100,000 cycles	Manufacturer product documentation
Standard spring typical lifespan (residential use)	7-10 years	Manufacturer & industry cycle-life data
Extension spring typical lifespan	5-7 years	Industry cycle-life data
Gwinnett County total housing units	340,962	U.S. Census Bureau
Gwinnett County total households	327,043	U.S. Census Bureau
Gwinnett County homeownership rate	66.3%	U.S. Census Bureau
Estimated Gwinnett homes with a garage door	~225,000	Calculated (national garage/carport rate x housing units)
Estimated annual spring replacements, Gwinnett County	~22,500-32,100 (midpoint ~26,500)	Calculated estimate
Scheduled spring replacement cost (single)	\$150-\$300	Compiled national home-services cost guides
Scheduled spring replacement cost (both springs)	\$250-\$450	Compiled national home-services cost guides
Emergency/after-hours surcharge	\$50-\$150 (or flat fee)	Compiled national home-services cost guides
Share of total repair cost attributable to labor	~60%	Industry cost-breakdown data
Average U.S. household annual home maintenance/repair spending	\$984 (2024)	BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey
U.S. garage door-related emergency room visits per year	20,000-30,000	U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
U.S. garage door pinching injuries requiring ER care per year	7,500+	U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission / NEISS

County-level estimates in this report are modeled by applying national usage, cycle-life, and household garage-ownership

data to local housing figures; they are not a direct count of local service calls. All cost figures are national ranges and will vary by specific job, door configuration, and local labor rates.

About Local Garage Door Specialists

Local Garage Door Specialists provides garage door repair, spring replacement, and maintenance services across Gwinnett County, Georgia. Given how consistently a broken spring is the single most common — and most dangerous to self-repair — garage door issue homeowners face, our technicians are trained specifically to diagnose remaining spring life during routine service visits, not just respond after a spring has already failed. If your garage door is heavy to lift, making unusual noise, or simply hasn't had its springs inspected in several years, a scheduled visit now is the clearest way to avoid the most expensive version of this repair later.

Methodology, Limitations & Sources

This report combines manufacturer-published spring cycle ratings, compiled industry service-call and failure-cause statistics associated with the International Door Association (IDA) and comparable trade sources, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission injury data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey data, and U.S. Census Bureau housing data for Gwinnett County. The estimate of homes with a garage door applies a commonly cited national household garage/carport ownership rate to local housing unit counts and is a modeled estimate, not a direct local measurement; actual Gwinnett County garage door prevalence may differ based on local housing stock characteristics. The estimate of annual spring replacement events is similarly modeled, calculated by dividing the estimated garage-door-equipped home base by the typical spring lifespan range documented in Finding 2, and should be read as an order-of-magnitude estimate rather than a precise count. Cost figures reflect national ranges compiled from multiple published home-services cost sources and will vary by specific job scope, door configuration, and local market conditions. This report does not constitute engineering, safety, or financial advice specific to any individual garage door system.

International Door Association (IDA) and compiled industry trade sources. Garage door service-call frequency and failure-cause statistics, including broken-spring share of repair calls (~30%) and maintenance-related failure share (~75%). [doors.org](#)

Manufacturer product documentation — LiftMaster, CHI Overhead Doors, DoorLink, and comparable residential/commercial garage door spring manufacturers. Standard and high-cycle torsion spring cycle ratings.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Garage door and garage door operator-related emergency room injury estimates (20,000-30,000/year); National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) pinching injury data. [cpsc.gov](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 2024. Average annual household spending on home maintenance and repairs (\$984). [bls.gov/cex](#)

U.S. Census Bureau. Housing unit, household, and homeownership data for Gwinnett County, Georgia, most recent available estimates. [census.gov](#)

Compiled national home-services cost guides (Angi, Forbes Home / This Old House, HomeGuide, and comparable sources), 2026 data. Garage door spring replacement cost ranges, scheduled vs. emergency/after-hours pricing, and labor cost share.