



America's Favorite Garage Doors®

For Immediate Release

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PLAN AHEAD TO AVOID GARAGE DOOR LOCK-IN DURING POWER OUTAGE

PLAN AHEAD TO AVOID GARAGE DOOR LOCK-IN DURING POWER OUTAGE Disconnect electric opener or get battery back up CINCINNATI – (August 13, 2004) -- In the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, many Florida residents still remain without power and getting electricity restored could be a multi-day effort. Homeowners should plan ahead to disconnect their electric openers to avoid being stranded because the car is locked in the garage. "Most people do not even think about their garage door opener not working during a power outage. We just expect it to faithfully go up and down when we press the button," says Pat Lohse, director of residential marketing for garage door manufacturer Clopay Building Products. "If the power goes out, homeowners may need to disconnect their electric openers to manually open the garage door. That can be easier said than done so we suggest homeowners learn how to do it before an emergency arises." To prevent having to search frantically for a garage door instruction manual in the dark, here are some helpful tips: 1. Disconnect the garage door opener when the garage is in the closed position, not when it's open. Otherwise, if the springs aren't balanced, the door could suddenly drop to the ground and cause injury. 2. If the springs are properly balanced, the door will open easily with the lift handles. If it is difficult to open, have a professional garage door service technician check the door as soon as possible to avoid further damage or safety risks. 3. Lock the door. When the automatic opener is disconnected the door is not securely shut until you manually slide the lock bar. 4. Reconnect the opener when the power comes back on. Make sure the door is unlocked when the opener is reconnected. Electrically opening the garage door while the lock bar is still in place can cause major damage. 5. Invest in an automatic door opener that includes a battery backup feature. That way, when the power goes out, the garage door will still function using the opener, as will the entry keypad and the safety sensors, and the garage door will be locked and secured. The Chamberlain Group manufactures the EverCharge battery backup system for its LiftMaster® model 2500 garage door openers. For more information about Clopay doors, log onto www.clopaydoor.com or call 800-225-6729. For information on LiftMaster openers, log onto www.liftmaster.com or call 877-LIFTMASTER. # # #