

### Opening The Door To Savings

Smart technology is no longer a thing of the future, it is here. This technology makes your home more responsive to your every need. With this new technology onset, we see the smart garage door opener. These devices come in many different styles, but there are two main types.

The two main types of garage door openers are the add-on and the package types. The add-on type attaches to your existing garage door opener and connects to your WiFi network. The package type is a new system that gives you an entirely compatible smart garage door system all in one. We will cover the pros and cons of each.

First, the add-on type works with your existing motorized garage door opener system. The main type of add-on is the smart garage door controller. This controller attaches to the existing garage door opener with two-sided tape. There are a few wires that need to be connected to the garage door opener to allow operation. Also, it's important to note that proper operation will rely on a strong WiFi signal. These systems offer a number of different options like scheduling, remote access, voice control,

and typically can be used with a remote app on your phone.

The second type of smart garage door opener is a package unit. This is a new garage door opener motor with smart technology built in already. All that needs to be done is to connect it to WiFi and download the app on your phone and you are ready to go. This type of system is best if the garage door opener needs to be upgraded or replaced but it will be more expensive.

Both systems can satisfy your needs and have similar outcomes. Both offer the benefits of controlling your garage door on-site or remotely. You'll never need to turn around and drive back home to see if the garage door is down. Also, they both add a layer of security as it offers a way to monitor the status of your garage door from virtually anywhere and open and close it if needed. Your smart opener can even alert you if your garage door opens or closes when you are away.

Some of the top picks for on-line purchase in add-on type openers include Chamberlain, Garadget, and Genie. Reviews on these three units have been mostly positive and they pro-



Advise Guy Robert Talton

vide the quickest and most affordable options. These options are typically under \$100.

The package units are available in these same name brands as the add-on types and typically offer a 1.25HP motor with LED lighting and cameras. Package units are much more complicated to install since the belt or chain-drive system for the garage door must be installed. Also, these type of systems may require a professional installer. The package units are typically in the \$300-\$500 range, not including installation.

## South River EMC Communicator



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
910.892.8071  
800.338.5530  
[sremc.com](https://www.sremc.com)