LintelLift FAQ

The Product Itself

What is LintelLift?

LintelLift is an engineered solution designed to support sagging and failing garage lintels on houses with a brick or stone facade. A cambered (curved) beam sits on top of two steel support columns that are attached to the sides of the garage and the concrete slab. As the beam is flattened out, it lifts the home's lintel back toward its original position.

When is LintelLift a good solution?

Any house with cracks in the brick or stone façade above the garage door may be a candidate for the LintelLift system. Often, houses are designed with inadequately sized lintels above large openings, like the garage. These lintels can begin to sag over time as they struggle to support the weight above them. As a result, the brick above the lintel begins to crack, usually in the middle or from the corners of the garage. LintelLift permanently stabilizes these failing lintels and can sometimes even lift them back up to their original position.

How does LintelLift compare with other solutions for these types of problems?

Since cracked brick is a more easily identifiable problem than a sagging lintel, often the bricks are tuck-pointed with mortar to fill in any gaps or cracks. This addresses the symptoms of the lintel failure vs. the cause and the lintel will continue to sag.

How does LintelLift help with these problems?

The LintelLift engineered lintel adds support under the home's failing lintel, lifting it back toward its original position. This addresses the root cause of lintel failure, rather than temporary or cosmetic solutions, like tuck-pointing.

Does LintelLift account for driveway movement?

For areas that experience freeze/thaw or have expansive clay soils, we recommend using the Floating Post System. Our cantilevered bracket is designed to sit only on the garage slab, eliminating any impact from slab movement up to 2 inches and therefore damage due to these conditions.

Areas that do not see driveway movement can choose the Traditional Post System that utilizes a wider aluminum bracket.

Setting Customer Expectations

How long does a LintelLift install take?

A LintelLift install can be done in as few as four hours.

What does a homeowner need to know prior to install?

The crew will need all cars out of garage and driveway for the day of install. Any existing keystones on the garage header will be covered with the vinyl trim kit.

What does LintelLift look like when finished?

A white vinyl trim kit completely covers and hides all steel LintelLift components. There are slight differences between the look of the trim kit if you're installing a Floating Post System or Traditional Post System.

Can the LintelLift vinyl trim be painted?

Yes, the vinyl cover is paintable and the homeowner can paint it to match the house trim. An acrylic-based exterior paint such as Benjamin Moore MoorGlo works best when painting the vinyl trim.

How much space is lost with LintelLift?

Just over four inches are lost from the garage opening (approximately two on each side of the opening), due to the steel columns and vinyl covers.

Will the garage door operation be impacted by a LintelLift installation?

No. The LintelLift system is designed to sit outside the travel of the garage door.

Will any existing cracks above the lintel disappear?

Any cracks above the opening will improve, but they will not disappear. Homeowners should seek out a quality mason if they want the cracks to disappear and new mortar to match.

Installation Specifics (see Install Video & Field Guide for more details)

What tools and equipment are required to install LintelLift?

The full equipment and tool list is available on the Hub.

What sized crew is appropriate?

A two-man crew is appropriate for a LintelLift install.

How do I know when to stop lifting the beam?

You want to stop lifting when the engineered beam is level. Using a four-foot level placed on the bottom of the beam will help install crews know when to stop. We recommend checking this frequently during the lift portion of the install.

Note that if there are only a couple of rows of brick over the garage, it may not be possible to fully flatten the beam because there is not enough weight pressing down on it. Stop lifting if the mortar in the bricks around the opening begins to separate.

How is the beam size determined?

The length is determined by the width of the garage opening. Sixteen and eighteen foot lengths are available and fit the vast majority of two-car garage openings.

Can I get custom sizes for garages that are not 16 or 18 feet long?

We have the ability to order lengths longer that 18ft but only up to 20ft long. This would be a special order and would carry a longer lead time. Contact us for more information.

For shorter spans, you can cut a 16ft beam to length. The camber along the beam is constant so you can simply measure the length needed and cut from one end. Be sure not to cut too short. After cutting to length, you need to drill a few holes and remove the material in between for the needed slot at the newly cut end. This can easily be done with a Sawzall, jig saw, die grinder or rotary tool. Finally we recommend spraying painting the cut end of the beam so it's protected.

How tall are the columns?

The columns/posts are 7.5' tall. They will work in 8' tall openings and can be cut down for 7' tall openings.

How is the vinyl trim connected to the house?

The vinyl system is sealed with white, paintable caulk once the install is complete.

Does LintelLift work if a house has brick over the garage but siding on the sides of the garage?

Yes, this should not change the install in any way.