

Automated Vehicle Gate Systems Safety Tips

Stand Clear! Motorized sliding and swinging gates can be dangerous. When a motorized gate is opening or closing, stay clear of the motion of the gate. Entrapment can cause injury or death.

Look for the Listing Mark. For safety, make sure that the vehicular gate opener being installed on your property bears the "mark" of a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as "UL" or "ETL." These marks identify that the product has been tested and complies with the UL 325 Standard for Safety.

Don't Reach Through. Never reach through a motorized gate to operate the gate opener controls. Reaching through a gate to operate a control device is extremely dangerous. The UL Safety Standard for gate openers prohibits controls from being positioned within reach of the gate or gate opener.

10-Foot Rule. Gate controls must be positioned so that a person using the control cannot touch the gate or gate opener. UL 325 reads "Controls intended for user activation must be located at least 6 feet away from any moving part of the gate or operator **and** where the user is prevented from reaching over, under, around or through the gate to operate the controls". Ten feet is the accepted practice.

Children. Do not allow children to play on automated or near gates. This could be a deadly game. Teach children about the importance of safety in the area of an automated gate. Gates can move suddenly; warning signs must be posted on both sides of the gate. Vehicle gates should not be used for pedestrian access. It is recommended that a separate 'walk gate' be located within 25 feet of the automated access point.

Inherent Reverse. Since March 2000, gate openers that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and are intended for use by the public (1) must include an inherent reversing feature; reversing must begin within 2 seconds of sensing the obstruction and (2) must be installed with a secondary entrapment device such as photoelectric eyes or reversing edges. Older automatic gates generally do not have these built-in sensitivity systems that can detect objects that may be caught in the gate. If your gate opener lacks this type of system that can detect obstructions in BOTH the opening and closing cycles, it's time to replace your gate opener.

Not a weekend project. Installing a vehicular gate opener system is not a project for a do-it-yourselfer. Gate openers cannot be simply "plugged in." They require detailed installation procedures, installation of secondary entrapment prevention devices, and

installation of vehicular detection devices. They must also be installed in compliance with the UL 325 Safety Standard, and the gate itself needs to comply with ASTM F2200. If you need an automated vehicular gate system installed, contact a professional gate systems installation company.

Maintenance. Like all electro-mechanical devices, your automated gate system requires periodic maintenance and testing. Follow UL325, ASTM F2200 and the recommended maintenance and testing schedule in your gate opener owner's manual. Ask your professional automated gate system installer about a service contract to keep your gate system running safely and smoothly.

Know Your System. Ask your installer to demonstrate the safety systems of your gate opener. Be sure you know how to safely test these systems. Your gate opener is equipped with a means for manually operating the gate. It is important to know how to operate your gate opener in the event of a power outage or system failure.

Pinch Points! According to ASTM F2200, all exposed rollers in sliding gates must have covers or guards to protect pinch points. These covers prevent hands or feet from getting caught between the gate and the roller. If your sliding gate does not have roller covers or guards, contact a trained vehicular gate opener technician to have them installed on your gate system.