



DIY Automatic Gate Kits

Solar & Low Voltage Specialists

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Frequently Asked Questions

G-Force believes in offering sound information and advice to help you make the right decisions for your automatic gate. Here, you'll find valuable information about our solar powered and 12V AC powered gate openers, our warranties and our company.

Company & Warranties

Are you Australian owned?

G-Force is proudly Australian owned and operated. We began operation in 2003. Today, we are a major supplier of DIY gate motor kits for swing gates and sliding gates all across Australia.

What warranties do you provide?

All our automatic gate motor kits are backed by a one year manufacturers' warranty.

Do you deliver?

We can arrange delivery to anywhere in Australia for a nominal delivery charge calculated according to location.

Product Selection

Why is the G-Force swing arm type gate motor ideal for use on farm gates?

Between winter and summer, farm fences and gates can be subject to ground movement causing gate posts and gates to move and, typically, farm gates usually have very basic hinges. These two factors can cause misalignment with the gate. By design, the G-Force FG 5 swing arm gate motor naturally rotates and can tolerate ground movement and any misalignment and give reliable operation all year round. The linear type gate motors (ram type, piston type, screw type, telescopic type etc.) have to be mounted to the gate and gate post with an accurate triangle geometry to make them rotate. Movement or misalignment with the gate can cause the linear type gate motors to fail and become unreliable.

Will a low voltage or solar powered gate opener work on my gate?

G-Force has a gate opener solution to suit most types of gates. We can automate swing gates, sliding gates and farm gates, commercial and industrial gates. Your gate will need to be soundly installed, free swinging or free sliding and in good working order. The posts should be robust and firmly in the ground.

Will the swing arm gate motor work on a brick pillar?

Swing arm gate openers are highly adaptable. Our swing arm gate motor will open gates centre mounted up to 300mm from the back of a pillar. Swing arm gate motors are more flexible in this application than the linear type gate motors.

How wide does a swing arm gate motor open?

Up to 130° depending on site and installation offsets.

Do I need a centre ground stop on double swing gates?

Generally, our double swing gate motors do not require a ground stop. G-Force swing gate motors have built-in user-adjustable limit switches to set the open and closed positions. However, a ground stop will enable the gates to close firmly and tightly against one another. For long, heavy gates which have greater momentum when closing, we recommend the use of a ground stop.

How much side-room clearance do I need for a swing gate motor?

A minimum of 400mm side room clearance from the hinge point is required with our standard swing arm gate kits. Where clearance is less than 400mm, please contact us for further advice.

Does the wind affect the swing gate motor?

Fully clad single gates and double gates catch the wind like a sail. The gate motors must be strong enough to push against this extra resistance. Yet they must remain sensitive enough to re-open if physical obstruction is detected. If you live in a high-wind area, please contact us for further advice.

What is the remote handset transmitter range?

The range is typically 25 to 35 metres, depending on environmental factors and electrical interference. Interference to the remote handset range can be caused by things such as baby monitors, cordless phones, high-voltage power lines, phone towers and natural surroundings.

Can the gate close automatically?

Yes. An automatic close function is available on all G-Force DIY gate opener kits. You can choose to press the remote handset once to open and once to close. Alternatively set to auto close mode and the gate will close automatically. We recommend safety beams be installed if the gate motor is put into auto close mode.

Is there a swing gate motor to suit outward-opening gates?

Yes. G-Force have swing gate motors suitable for inward-opening *and* outward-opening swing gates. These gates can be positioned on rising, falling or sloping sites.

Can the sliding gate motor work from either left or right hand sides?

Yes. Simply adjust the wiring as per the instructions to change the motor direction.

How long does it take to open your gates?

Between 20 - 40 seconds, depending on your installation.

How does the solar-powered system work?

The solar panel converts UV rays (sunlight) to electric current which charges the main storage battery. A solar regulator prevents over charging. The 12 volt motor is then powered by the battery.

How many solar panels are needed?

In most situations, one solar panel is sufficient. Where high usage is required, an increase in solar panel size and/or battery capacity may be necessary. Please contact us for further advice.

Can I mount the solar panel away from the gates?

The solar panel can be mounted up to 50 metres away. For most installations, the panel must be in full sunshine for at least four to six hours a day. If the panel is installed in a shaded area, both the battery charging efficiency and gate opener function will be affected.

Will the solar panel still charge on a cloudy day?

G-Force solar panels are very efficient. These will charge the battery on cloudy days, however efficiency is reduced in the shade. If left in the shade for prolonged periods, the battery will eventually discharge. For better performance, mount the solar panel where it will receive as much sunlight as possible.

Should I power my gate opener with the 12V AC transformer or by solar power?

If there is 240v AC power accessible within 80 metres to 100 metres of your gate, then you can install our 12V AC low voltage gate opener kit. The standalone 12V AC transformer powers the gate motor and trickle charges the battery day and night. Otherwise, the solar powered gate opener kits are the answer.

Would it help if I sent you a photo of my gate?

Absolutely. We can then identify the best gate opener for your individual requirements. Simply attach your photo through our Contact form.

Access Options

How do visitors get in without a remote handset transmitter?

We have several access items available and some of the items may be included in the gate motor kit:

1. A simple visitor push button in a weather-proof enclosure
2. A visitor push button fitted with a key lock to disable the push button when you are away
3. Wireless Keypads

Can I purchase additional remote handsets transmitters for family or friends?

Yes. Extra remote handset transmitters are available for all G-Force DIY automatic gate opener kits.

Security & Safety

What extra safety and security components can I add to my automatic gate?

Our gate openers are also compatible with most photo safety beams, electric locks, intercoms and mobile phone access control options.

Can I add these extras to the solar-powered openers?

Some of these additional components can draw too much power and may drain your gate motor battery. Please contact us for further advice.

Will the gate operate in a power blackout?

All G-Force DIY gate opener kits are supplied with a battery. With the 12 V AC low voltage models, the battery becomes an emergency battery back-up should there be a mains power blackout. So your gate will operate even when there's no electricity.

What safety features are included?

All our DIY gate opener kits have in-built adjustable anti-crush obstruction sensing with an auto-reverse safety feature. Other available safety equipment such as photo safety beams and warning signs can also be fitted. We can advise on the most appropriate options for your particular installation.

Installation

Can I install the gate opener myself?

Our DIY gate opener kits are simple to install, connect and operate. There are easy to follow instructions with photographs and graphics to guide you. Our gate openers are low voltage so an electrician may not be required. This can be an advantage and cost saving. Our set up and install instructions can be found in the download section of our web site.

Is everything included in the DIY kit?

Generally all parts are included however, you will need additional hardware items such as bolts and screws and interconnecting wire to connect to the solar panel or power pack / transformer to the gate motor and to wire in any push buttons. In most situations, 2-core 1.5mm 'Twin Active' wire is sufficient. You can get this from most electrical supply stores.

How long does it take to install a gate opener?

Typical installation times are:

- Sliding gate motor kit: two to four hours
- Single Farm gate opener kit: two to four hours
- Double gate motor kit: three to six hours.

Do I need to install low voltage wire in conduit?

Although not crucial, we would recommend the use of conduit, especially where wires need to be installed across driveways or heavy traffic areas. In some cases, black poly pipe can be a good alternative.

Maintenance

What about maintenance?

Following gate opener installation you must carefully maintain the gate, gate motor and the surrounding area. Keep your gate in good repair and ensure it continues to operate freely. Prevent grass and foliage build-up that may obstruct gate operation or allow insects or other pests to infest the motor. Most automatic gate failures are caused by lack of attention, flat batteries, pests or power points being turned off.