



## sponsor spotlight

By Sonoma Sponsor, **Rene Quintana**,  
Quintana Garage Doors

# QUINTANA GARAGE DOORS

*a family affair*



I was born in Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico, where I was raised by my grandparents. I had five brothers and five sisters and moved to Las Cruces when I was 9 years old to join my biological mother. I would come to visit, but in 1975, we all came to join my mother. I attended Doña Ana Elementary. Then, when I was 12, my grandfather passed away, so I moved back to Mexico to live with my grandmother.

When it was time for high school, I came back to Las Cruces and attended Mayfield High School for one year. After my sophomore year, I once again returned to Mexico to take care of my grandmother, who wasn't doing well. I completed high school there in 1987. When my sister Carmen came to my graduation from San Bernardino, she asked me to help drive her back when it was time to leave. I landed in San Bernardino and never looked back!

When the amnesty program became available in 1985, my sister encouraged me to become a U.S. citizen. This process was long but so rewarding. My teachers from Las Cruces even wrote letters of recommendation to support my application. In 1988, I became a U.S. Citizen and began working in the garage door industry in June 1988.

In February of 2018, I sustained a knee injury at work and was not able to work for almost a year. During that time, I researched the process for becoming a licensed contractor for garage doors (G.S. 14), specific to windows, doors, and operators. I studied hard and received my license in May 2019. I started Quintana Garage Doors in June 2019. When I got my start, it was just me. I struggled for almost two years, and then as my name and reputation grew, I received more work. In October 2021, my son David joined the business, and now my other son Ivan is part of our team. Together we run the day-to-day operations, and I also bring in contract helpers from time to time.

It's a family affair. My wife Nellie is my right-hand helper. She's my travel buddy, and my two boys are experienced and reliable. I love sports, mostly golf and baseball. My sons and I play old-timer baseball in a Sunday league. We are on the Ranger team. We attend Sunday mass in Doña Ana at Our Lady of Purification.

Having worked for my competitors over the years, I knew exactly what aspects of my business would be better than the rest. My number one focus is on customer service and quality. For example, one of the biggest problems I've encountered recently is that some contractors are replacing



Ivan

garage door springs and replacing existing parts with the wrong size spring. This can be very dangerous. All garage doors should be able to open  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way and stay in place. If the door only springs completely open, you are putting yourself and others at risk.

I would like to remind neighbors that maintenance is a must. Do not wait until you have a problem before you service your doors. You would not want to wait until your clothes dryer burns down your house before you sought service! Service your garage door every 3 to 4 months by making sure the tracks are lubricated. At a minimum, you should do this twice a year – especially with how dry the weather is here. Adjustments should be done annually by a licensed contractor with garage door installation qualifications.

Because the service workforce is stretched, I recommend that you schedule maintenance rather than be held up in an emergency because schedules are full.

I am frequently asked what the best kind of garage door opener is – chain-drive or belt-drive. Chain-drive garage door openers use a metal chain to open the garage door. These are widely used since they are affordable and readily available. It works by moving gears and metal parts together using a chain running assembly unit attached to the front of the door which lifts the garage door up and



David



Nellie

down. Belt drive garage openers use a rubber belt to open the door. Like a chain drive, the belt drive operates by moving the rubber belt. The rubber belt is used to slide the trolley when the door is triggered to open or close. It's a quieter door operator.

Chain drive garage door openers are less expensive and easy to find. Belt drives tend to be a little more expensive, but are going to last a long time and are worth the extra money. Belt drives have a long-lasting shelf life since the trolley is used to move the rubber belt up and down. Chain drives are not long-lasting because the friction of metal on metal wears the parts down quicker.

As far as the best residential garage door goes, an insulated steel back is the best one. It has metal in the front, insulation in the middle and metal on the back, it's also a stronger door. You also want to match your home's value and design. We recommend that you look for a door that meets your climate needs, matches your home's value and design and has a warranty.

**Quintana Garage Doors**

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Owner Rene Quintana at work