Guide to Mounting Types for Openers & Access Control

Pad Mounted Openers



Pad mounted openers are any type of gate or door operator that is installed on its own designated (typically concrete) pad. These pads can be raised above the gate opening by a few inches or remain level dependent on your needs.

Most swing, slide, and barrier arm operators are pad mounted. There are a number of reasons for this: Providing power to these units without exposing power lines, giving these units enough torque to properly open your gate or door, for slide gates it's the only way to be able to actually open the door, the list goes on. This style of mounting can sometimes be a little more complicated than surface mounting as additional clearance needs to be given to the operator. We recommend having these professionally installed to avoid any issues.

Surface Mounted Openers

Surface mounted openers are any type of gate or door operator that is installed onto the gate itself, the neighboring wall, or even the ceiling. This is typically done through concrete or mounting bolts, brackets, or rail systems that the opener mounts to.

Typically, swing, hoist, and overhead operators such as garage openers are surface mounted. This is due to the nature of these openers typically being either for lighter duty gates (by size or by usage) or overhead and hoist operators that have to lift the doors upward and cannot be on the ground. In either case, these operators are designed in such a way that they don't need to be installed on a concrete pad. While these units are typically easier to install than pad mounted operators, especially linear swing gate openers, it is still recommended that you use a professional installer to avoid any problems.



Which is better?

Ultimately, there isn't really a better mounting method for your gate opener as they are both reliant on the kind of opener you are using. Surface mounted and pad mounted operators provide different uses for the type of opener they are paired with.

The only thing to really consider with these installations is what can you reasonably handle with the space that you have. Can you actually afford the real estate on your property to have an additional concrete pad? If your building large enough and strong enough to hold a hoist operator? It's about ensuring what is both realistic and safe for your facility.

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Surface Mounting



When it comes to surface mounted anything, you can almost always assume it means that it will be attached ***on*** to the given spot you want it to be, not ***in*** it. Whether it's a gate opener, lock, push button, key switch, if it is surface mounted it is going to be on the outside of wherever it's installed.

Surface mounting can be done in a number of ways including welding, screws, bolts, nails, even adhesives so long as the main unit isn't actually going into the structure of your surface. Surface mounting often makes for a quicker install and is ideal for walkways and accessible areas primarily.

Flush Mounting



Flush mounting most often refers to a recessed mount, meaning that your device is going to be held within the structure of your surface. This is most commonly seen in things such as push buttons, switches, intercoms, keypads, and more. The idea is for your device to blend in with the wall for a flush, smooth finish.

Flush mounting is primarily done by drilling or carving out a space in your surface with enough depth to insert your device or its mounting box. From here it can be welded, screwed, bolted, or adhered into your given surface. Flush mounting requires a bit more skill and time to install but is recommended for a professional, finished look.

Pedestal Mounting



Pedestal mounting involves making use of a pedestal, tower, gooseneck stand, cabinet, bollard, or mounting post and attaching your device to that surface either on it or in it depending on the type of pedestal you have. Most commonly these are used for intercoms and proximity readers for commercial or industrial facilities.

These pedestals are either bolted using concrete bolts or cemented into the ground. Then as you may expect by now they can be screwed, bolted, or welded in place. Pedestal mounts are recommended only for areas with vehicle traffic as they are primarily designed for car and trucks heights.