AUTO GATES

Before you install an auto gate at your landed home

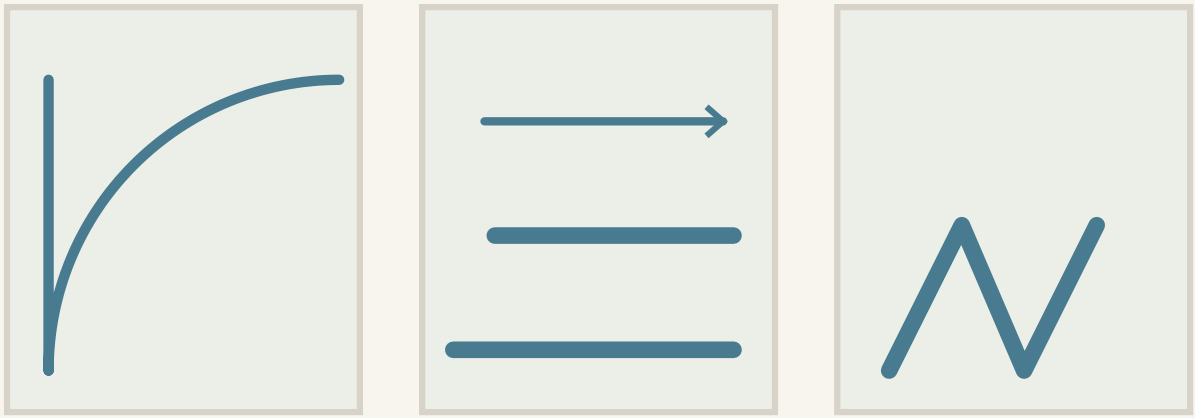
By DirectHome Team Updated 26 September 2026 9 min read Explore our auto gates service ↗

Auto gate installation for a landed home in Singapore starts with a site survey to choose a swing, sliding or folding layout. The installer then fits the gate and motor, connects the controls and tests the system before handover. Any new wiring needs certification by a Licensed Electrical Worker before power is switched on.

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Choose movement around the site

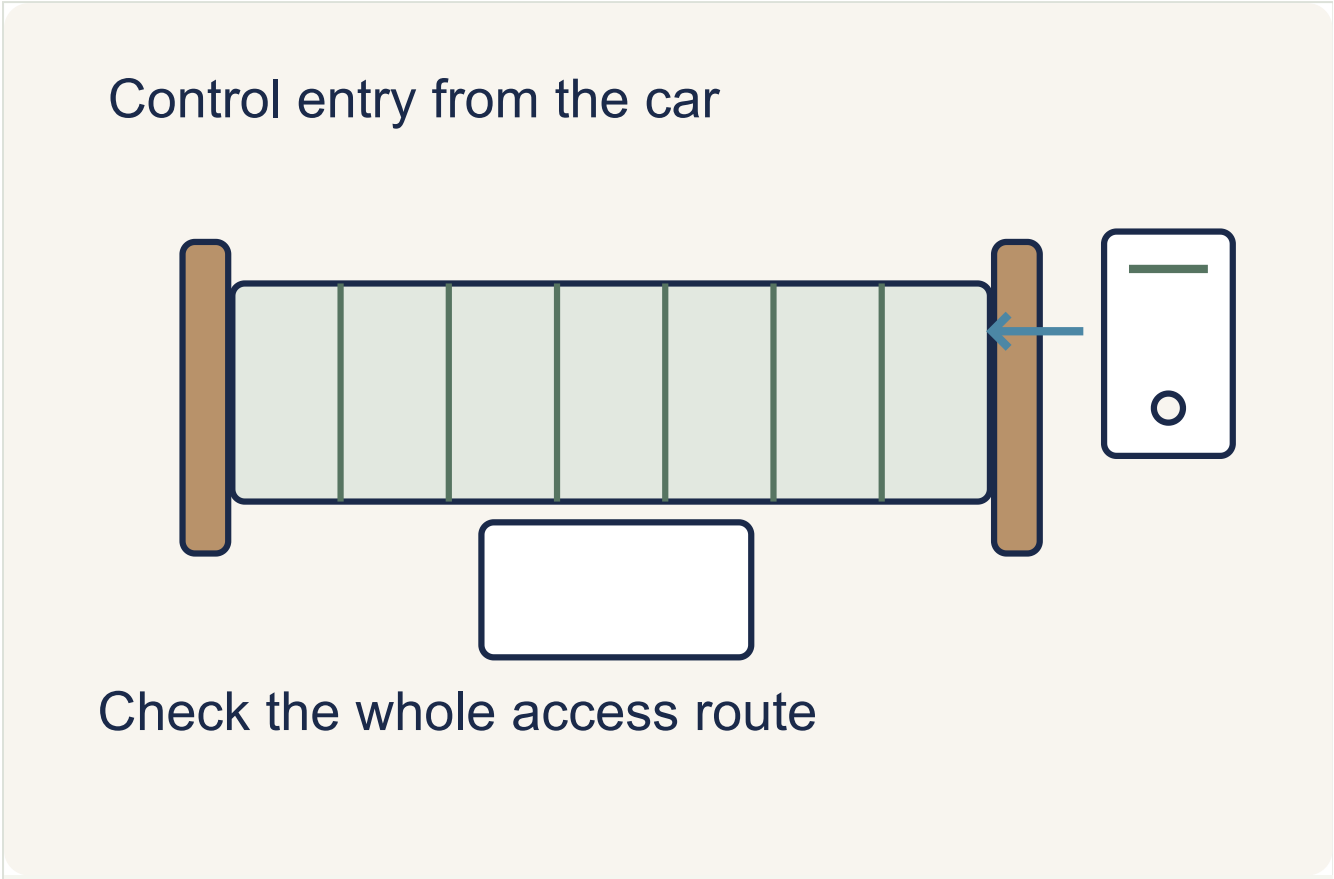


Swing **Sliding** **Folding**

Each needs a different clear movement area.

Swing, sliding and folding gates use space differently. Match the full movement area to the driveway and pedestrian routes.

Why Install an Auto Gate?



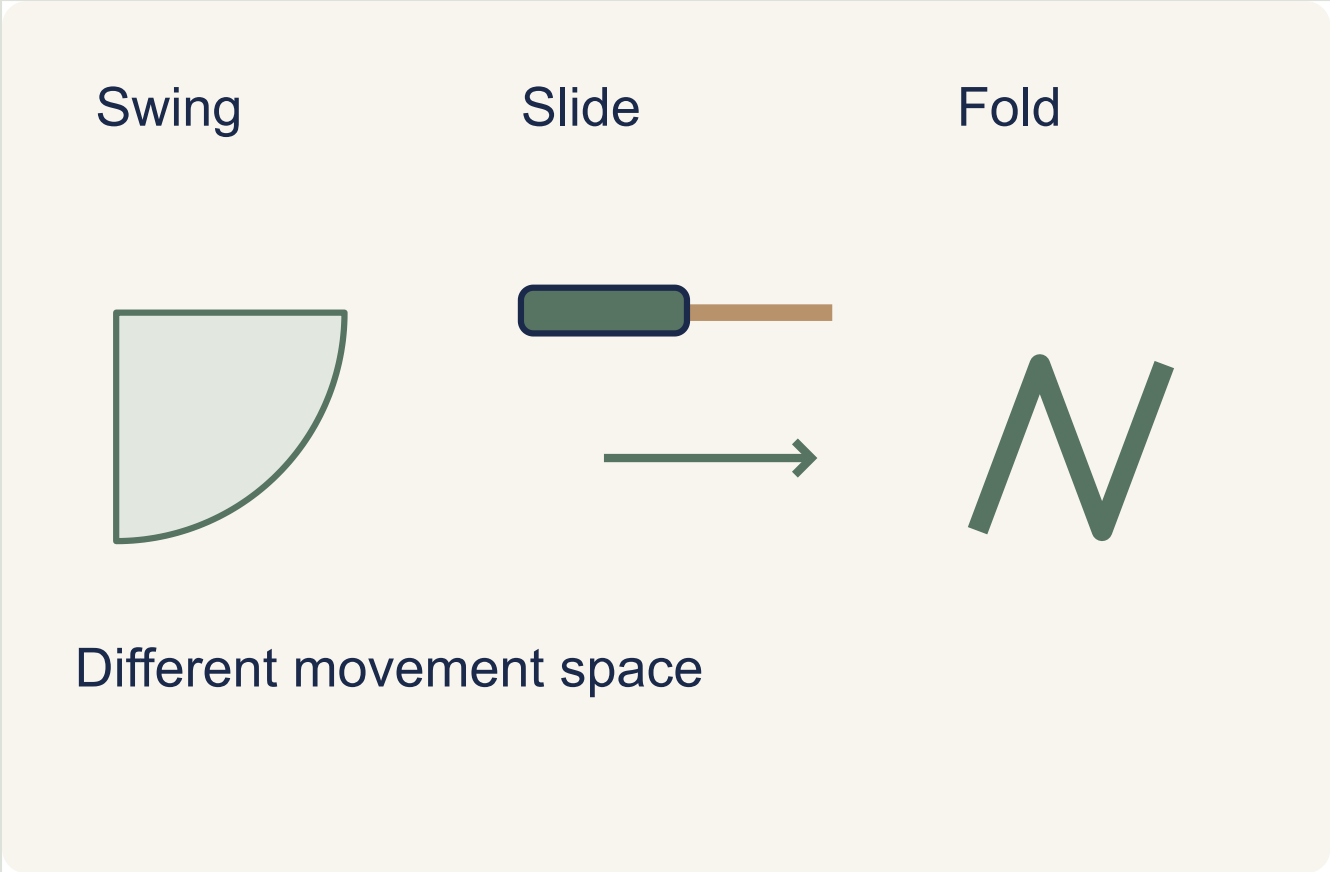
Remote control connects the driver to the gate without requiring them to leave the car.

An auto gate for your landed property lets you control vehicle access without getting out of the car to move the gate. Start with the trips your household actually makes: where the car waits, where it parks, and how someone on foot reaches the front door. A design that fits an empty driveway still needs to work when the car is home.

Decide who needs remotes, whether visitors need an intercom, and whether phone control is useful to your household. If you want an auto gate with intercom or CCTV, agree the proposed equipment and cable routes together so they can be included in the installation scope. Specify which controls should remain usable if the internet connection is unavailable.

Keeping an existing gate starts with its condition. Before adding a motor, have the installer assess its movement, hinges and supports together, because the mountings and foundations must withstand the gate's weight as it moves. If an existing automatic gate is faulty, use the auto gate repair guide to separate diagnosis from a decision to replace it.

Types of Auto Gates



Swing, sliding and folding gates use different parts of the available space.

Swing gates turn on hinges and use an arc of space in front of or behind the closed leaves. Have that arc drawn with the car in its normal parking position, including clearance above the driveway as it slopes. Confirm the permitted opening arrangement before ordering; a photograph of another property's outward-opening gate does not establish what is acceptable at yours.

Sliding gates move sideways beside the opening, so limited driveway depth may be less of an obstacle when there is enough clear side space. That side space also needs attention: gaps between the moving leaf and fixed walls or fencing can create trapping hazards.

A sliding gate on a sloped driveway needs a site assessment before you can know whether it will fit. Ask the installer to distinguish a driveway that rises towards the house from a gate that would travel downhill, then explain how the design prevents the gate running away down the slope.

Folding gates bring sections of each leaf together as they open, but the folded leaves still occupy space beside the entrance. Closing gaps at the hinges can create crush points, so the installer needs to assess and protect those areas. Ask for a drawing showing the fully open position, motor and hinges before assuming a folding design solves a tight driveway.

We recommend comparing layouts with your parking position marked before choosing the gate pattern. If a swing arc crosses that space, examine a sliding layout; if there is no clear side run, ask whether a folding arrangement fits. The swing-versus-sliding comparison develops that choice, while the auto gate buying guide covers the wider purchase.

How the gate and motor are installed

Gate motor installation involves mounting the motor, connecting its controller and protective devices, and testing how they work together before handover. New supply wiring is a separate part of the job, with Licensed Electrical Worker supervision and certification required before it is energised. Ask the quotation to identify who handles each part.

For an arm-operated swing gate, the installer fits the opener between the pillar and gate leaf, following the bracket positions and travel settings for that model. The hinge position and clearance beside the pillar affect how the arm can move, so settle that fitting arrangement before ordering. Other opener designs need their own installation instructions.

For a tracked sliding gate, the installer establishes the supports, guides and travel stops before fitting the motor and connecting the drive. In a rack-driven design, a toothed strip fixed to the gate engages a gear on the motor, and the installer checks their alignment throughout the gate's travel.

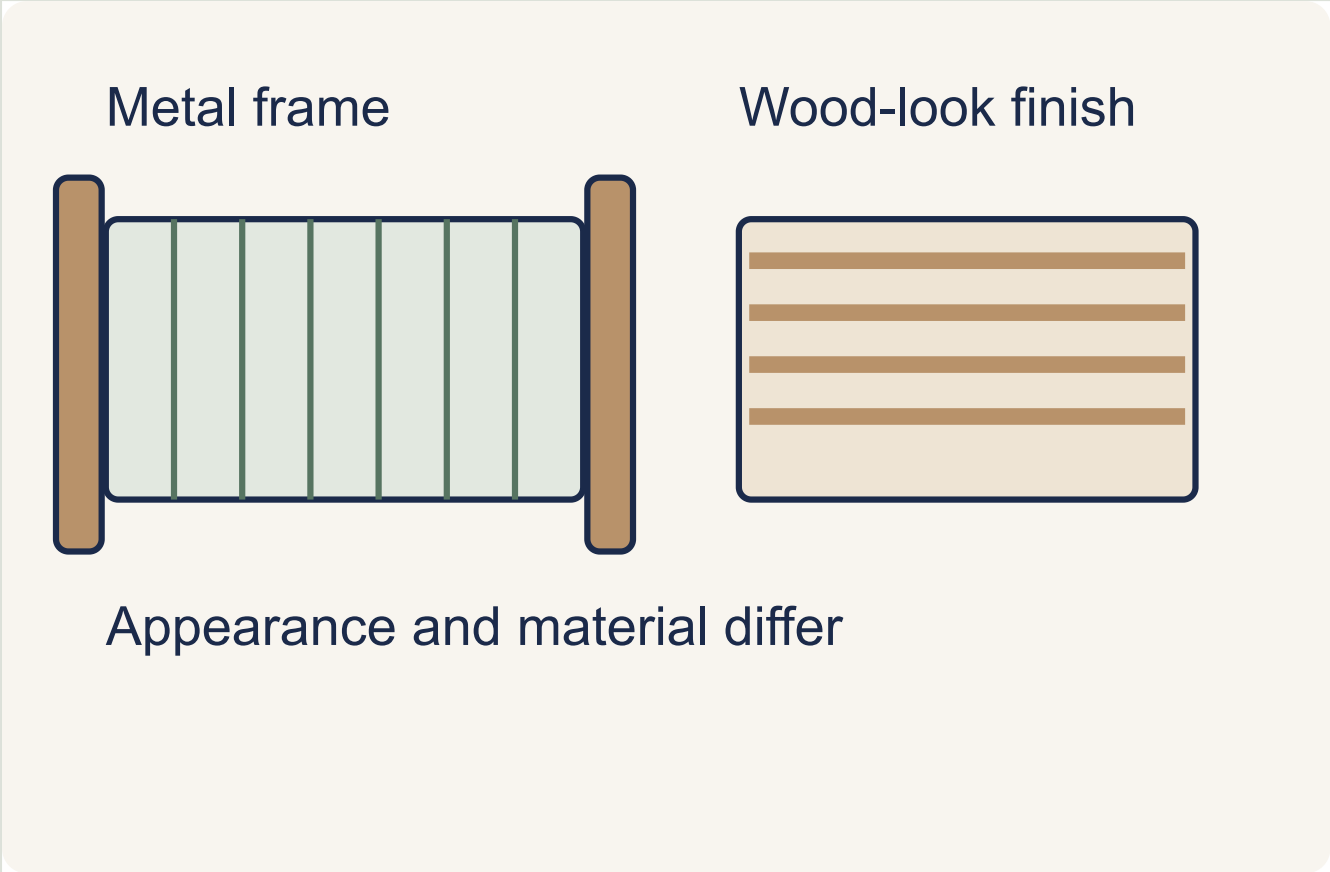
If you are considering a DIY sliding gate, we recommend leaving fabrication, supports and motor fitting to a gate installer. The design needs to prevent the gate leaving its track, falling over or running downhill; getting it to move is only part of the work. You can prepare by measuring the opening and available side space, marking where the car parks and listing the controls you want.

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Materials and Design



The frame material and the visible finish are separate design choices.

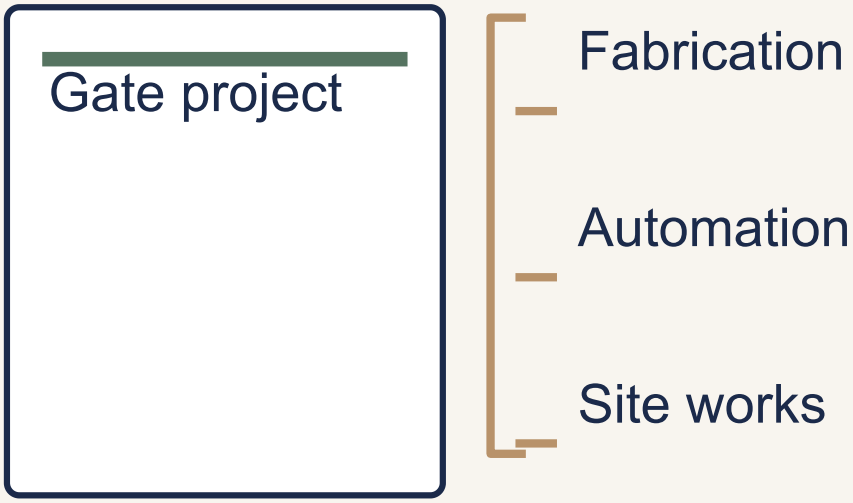
Aluminium's low weight and naturally protective oxide layer make it worth considering when comparing gate materials. Still ask for the finished gate's weight, frame specification, joints and coating-care instructions. The material name alone does not tell you how the complete gate will be built.

For mild steel, ask the proposal to identify the corrosion-protection system, treatment of joints and method for repairing a damaged finish. For stainless steel, request the grade, finish and cleaning instructions for the intended exposure. Use the aluminium-versus-mild-steel guide when comparing those fabrication options.

If you want a timber appearance, compare a timber proposal with a timber-look finish on aluminium. Specify the timber species or the exact coating, then compare the care instructions and how a damaged board or panel would be replaced. A sample helps settle appearance; the fabrication specification settles what you are buying.

Choose the motor with the final gate drawing in hand. Have the installer check the proposed gate's dimensions, weight and mounting arrangement against that motor's installation instructions, and repeat the check if the design changes. For solid panels, include wind exposure in the assessment because wind loads affect the moving gate and its supports.

Cost Breakdown



A complete gate price includes fabrication, automation and the necessary work around the entrance.

An installation price becomes useful once it says whether you are automating a retained gate, replacing the moving leaves, or rebuilding part of the entrance. Each buys a different amount of work. For the price question, use the auto gate cost guide; here, compare the scope that each quotation needs to price.

Use the same scope when comparing installation quotations. Unpriced work remains an open item.

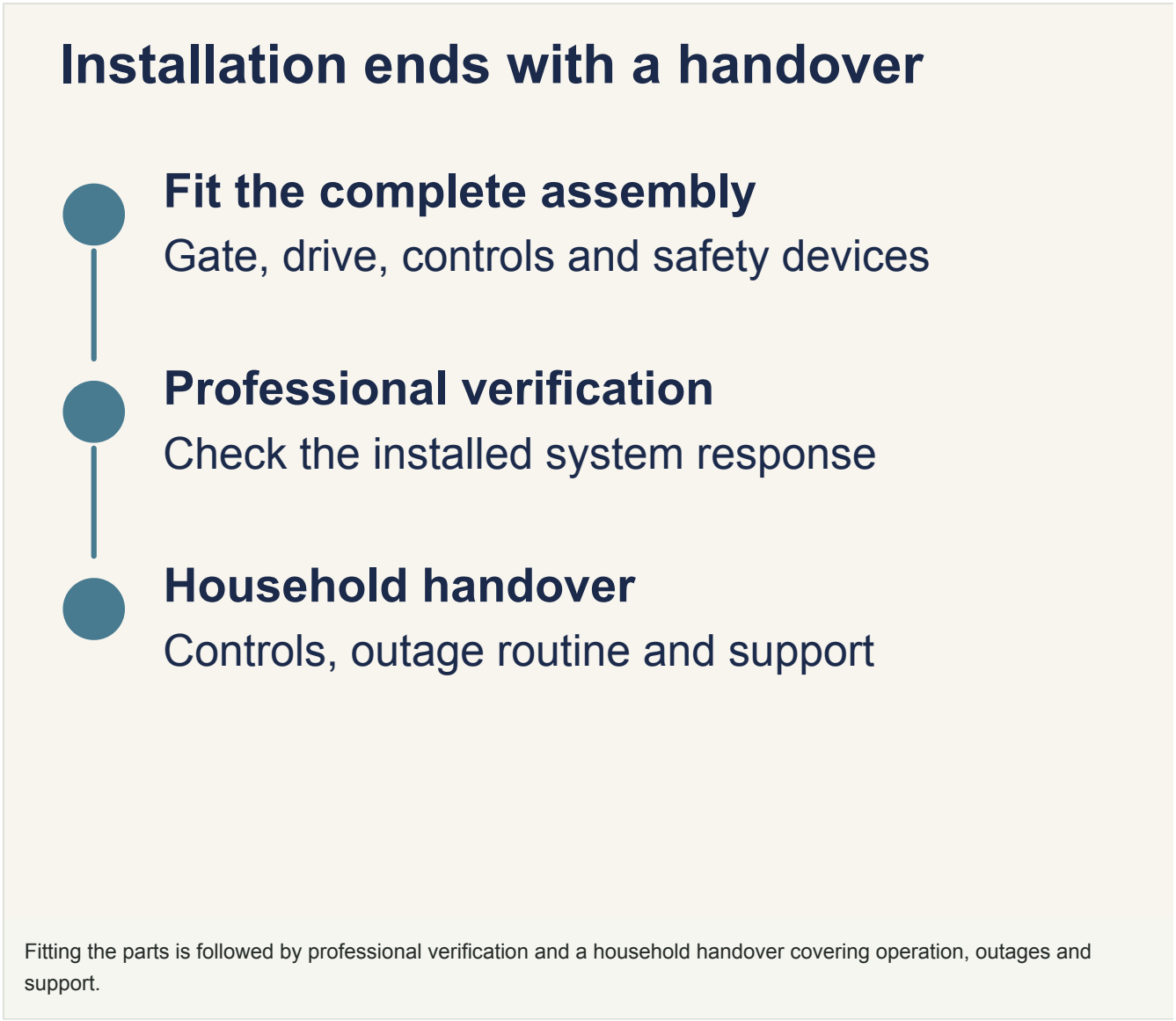
Part of the quotation	What to include or identify as excluded
Gate and supports	Gate dimensions, material and finish; retained or new posts; hinges, track or other support arrangement; removal of the old gate.
Automation and controls	Exact motor and controller models, remotes, intercom or app equipment, and the protective devices specified for the layout.
Electrical and entrance work	Power supply and cable routes; any excavation, drainage changes, masonry and reinstatement of paving or finishes.

Part of the quotation	What to include or identify as excluded
Completion and aftercare	Testing and handover, operating instructions, warranty issuer and exclusions, maintenance proposal, and GST treatment.

A motor-only price leaves the condition of the retained gate unresolved unless the quotation says what was inspected and what needs work. For an automatic swing gate, confirm whether the price includes the leaves and supports or only their automation. These distinctions answer more than a single headline total: they show what you could still have to pay for.

We recommend agreeing the work sequence before the existing gate is removed. Confirm which drawings, materials and access decisions remain outstanding, then identify when the entrance will be unavailable and what temporary arrangements the contractor proposes. If you park outside during the work, plan how people and deliveries will reach the house too; do not treat vehicle access as the household's only concern. The auto gate installation timeline explains the stages to discuss when agreeing your project schedule.

Safety and Compliance



Fitting the parts is followed by professional verification and a household handover covering operation, outages and support.

BCA's plan-submission exemption includes boundary walls, fences and gates that are not load bearing. Check the whole proposal if you are also altering structural supports or rebuilding the entrance, since the gate exemption does not settle those works. A Qualified Person, a registered architect or professional engineer, can advise on BCA and other authorities' clearances, including URA requirements, before fabrication.

Changing the connection to the road is a separate decision from replacing a gate. LTA's street-works code includes new access points and relocation or widening of existing access points among works requiring its clearance. If that is part of your proposal, settle the access design with the appointed Qualified Person before ordering a wider gate.

For new or altered electrical wiring, arrange work carried out or supervised by a Licensed Electrical Worker. EMA requires new wiring, rewiring and extensions to be tested and certified safe before supply is turned on. Name who is responsible for the gate's electrical supply in the quotation, alongside the person commissioning the gate mechanism.

Protective devices need to work as a system. Photocells detect interruptions across a beam, safety edges respond to contact and force control limits the drive's force; the auto gate safety-sensor guide explains what each does. Photoelectric beams alone do not guarantee person detection or prevent crushing.

These safety principles come from UK HSE technical guidance, not Singapore law. Have the installer assess the complete installation and provide force-test details where force limitation is used, then explain the safeguards fitted to your gate. Leave obstruction and force testing to the installer; the household demonstration should explain operation without using a person as a test obstacle.

Recommended planning sequence. The project programme depends on the actual work and clearances.

Stage to agree	What needs settling before moving on
Before fabrication	A measured layout showing gate travel, parked vehicles and pedestrian access; the final gate specification; any required clearances.
Before removing the old gate	The agreed delivery and work sequence, access arrangements for the household, and responsibility for temporary closure.
Before finishing the entrance	Coordination of cable routes, supports and any drainage or paving work, so the agreed equipment can be installed.
Before household use	Professional testing completed, the operating and release arrangements explained, and the handover documents supplied.

At handover, ask for the controls and outage procedure to be demonstrated for your equipment. Keep the release keys and instructions accessible to authorised users rather than leaving the only key somewhere they cannot reach. Ask what happens if someone is outside when power fails, especially if there is no separate pedestrian entrance.

Keep the model details, operating manual, test records, warranty and maintenance instructions together, with the agreed support contact. Confirm which aftercare tasks belong to the household and which require the installer. This gives the next person working on the gate a record of what was fitted and checked.

DirectHome offers swing, sliding and folding auto gate installation for landed homes in Singapore. Send photographs taken from a safe position inside the entrance, the approximate opening width and whether you hope to retain the gate. Include the parked-car position and any planned changes to the entrance so the quotation discussion starts with the work your home needs.

More on auto gates

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