

Panelift vs Panelift Icon: Standard vs Premium Sectional Door Compared

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Description:

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Details:

AI Summary

Choosing between the B&D; Panelift and Panelift Icon comes down to one question: do you want a solid, reliable sectional door, or are you willing to invest more for premium finishes, stronger security, and longer-lasting engineering?

Panelift is B&D's most popular sectional garage door — Colorbond® steel construction, Pinchfree™ hinges, five panel profiles, Knotwood timber-look finishes, and the option to add Insul-Shield™ insulation. It covers every standard colour and handles wind regions A and B. Spring life is rated at 10,000 cycles, maximum height reaches 3.415m, and it carries a 3-year warranty (extendable to 10 years with a B&D; opener).

Panelift Icon shares the same core engineering but upgrades nearly every spec. Spring cycles double to 20,000. Maximum door height increases to 3.99m. Auto-Lock™ — a heavy-duty deadbolt that locks automatically every time the door closes — comes standard. The twin-wheel SmoothTrack system delivers quieter, smoother operation. Corrosion-resistant stainless steel cables replace standard cables. 360° perimeter seals keep out leaves and dust. And Icon unlocks two exclusive finish ranges: the Sheer Panel Collection® (aluminium composite panels in 12 colours) and Natural Finishes (7 raw-material-inspired colours). Warranty extends to 5 years (10 with a B&D; opener).

The short answer: Panelift is the smart choice for most Australian homes. Panelift Icon is the upgrade for homeowners who want the best security, the longest service life, and access to architectural-grade finishes.

What They Share — Same DNA, Different Trim Levels

It helps to understand how much these two doors have in common first. The Icon isn't a completely different product — it's the Panelift platform with meaningful upgrades layered on top.

Both doors share:

- **Colorbond® steel construction** — the same five-layer engineered steel with baked-on polyester paint, tested for Australia's harsh UV, salt, and heat conditions
- **Pinchfree™ hinges** — B&D's patented hinge and panel edge design that prevents finger entrapment on both the inside and outside of the door
- **Torsion spring counterbalance system** — colour-coded springs and cable drums for balanced, controlled operation
- **The same five panel profiles** — Nullarbor, Seville, Madrid, Statesman, and Grange (when ordered in Colorbond® or Knotwood finishes)
- **Two texture options**

— Smooth or Woodgrain on Colorbond® steel panels - ****Knotwood timber-look finishes**** — the full range of 12 timber-look colours, from Nordic Oak to Merbau - ****Insul-Shield™ insulation option**** — available on both doors to add thermal and acoustic insulation - ****Window options**** — Plain or Stockton windows on Statesman and Grange profiles - ****Safety beam compatibility**** — infrared obstruction detection when paired with a B&D; opener - ****10-Year Total Confidence Warranty eligibility**** — when purchased with a B&D; (Automatic Technology) opener - ****Custom sizing**** — every door is made to the exact dimensions of your garage opening

The track system, horizontal rails, vertical tracks, and overall installation methodology are fundamentally the same. A technician who installs one can install the other. Replacement panels, springs, and hardware follow the same engineering platform.

This shared foundation is important because it means you're not choosing between a good door and a better door — you're choosing between a great door and a great door with extras.

Panelift Deep Dive — The Standard That Sets the Standard

Panelift is B&D's best-selling sectional garage door for good reason. It does everything most Australian homeowners need, and it does it well.

Panel Profiles

Panelift offers five distinct panel profiles, each creating a different visual character on the door face:

1. ****Nullarbor**** — Clean horizontal lines with a contemporary flat panel. The most modern-looking profile and the most versatile across architectural styles. This is the only profile available across every single finish option (Colorbond®, Knotwood, and all timber-look colours).
2. ****Seville**** — A refined, heritage-inspired profile with stacked horizontal panels. Works beautifully on traditional and transitional homes. Available in Colorbond® and select Knotwood timber-look finishes.
3. ****Madrid**** — Similar depth to Seville but with a slightly different panel proportion. Strikes a balance between traditional and contemporary. Available in Colorbond® and select Knotwood timber-look finishes.
4. ****Statesman**** — A classic raised-panel profile reminiscent of traditional Australian homes. This profile supports Plain and Stockton window inserts for a Hamptons-inspired look. Available in Colorbond® steel and Timbergrain® finishes only.
5. ****Grange**** — A wider raised-panel design that pairs well with period homes and heritage streetscapes. Like Statesman, it supports window inserts. Available in Colorbond® steel and Timbergrain® finishes only.

****Note on Smooth Nullarbor:**** The flat, smooth Nullarbor profile is only available on Panelift Icon doors. Standard Panelift offers Nullarbor in Woodgrain texture only.

Colour and Finish Range

****Colorbond® Steel (29 colours):**** The full Colorbond® range is available, including newer additions like Southerly®, Evening Haze®, Cove®, and Gully®, plus the two Timbergrain® options (Classic Cedar® and Caoba®). Every colour comes with the choice of Smooth or Woodgrain texture.

****Knotwood Timber-Look Finishes (12 colours):**** The Knotwood range replicates the warmth of real timber using the strength of Australian steel. Seven colours are available across Nullarbor, Seville, and Madrid profiles: Nordic Oak, Tassie Oak, Australian Cedar, Red Gum, Southern Cedar, Black Walnut, and Black Wenge. Five additional colours — Silver Wattle, Spotted Gum, Blackbutt, Western Red Cedar, and Merbau — are available on the Nullarbor profile only.

Key Specifications

- **Maximum door height:** Up to 3.415m (dependent on profile selection) - **Spring cycles:** 10,000 (at 5 cycles per day, that's roughly 5–6 years of spring life before replacement is needed) - **Warranty:** 3 years standard; extends to 10 years with the Total Confidence Warranty when purchased with a B&D; opener - **Cables:** Standard galvanised steel - **Seals:** Standard bottom seal - **Security:** Pinchfree™ hinges, anti-lift track design. Auto-Lock™ is not included but may be available as an aftermarket addition on some configurations

Who Is Panelift For?

Panelift is the right door for homeowners who want a quality sectional garage door at a sensible price. If your priorities are reliable operation, the Colorbond® colour match to your roof and gutters, and the ability to add Knotwood timber-look finishes, Panelift delivers without over-capitalising.

It's the door you'll find on the majority of new builds across suburban Australia — and for good reason.

Panelift Icon Deep Dive — Everything Panelift Does, Plus More

Panelift Icon takes the proven Panelift platform and adds engineering upgrades, security features, and exclusive finish options that push it into premium territory.

What's Different About Icon

****1. Auto-Lock™ — Standard Inclusion****

Every Panelift Icon door ships with Auto-Lock™ built in. This is a heavy-duty deadbolt mechanism that automatically engages every time the door closes. You don't need to remember to lock your garage — it locks itself. No add-on kit, no aftermarket installation, no extra cost. It's integrated into the door from the factory.

For context, your garage door is often the largest opening in your home. An automatic deadbolt that engages every single time is a meaningful security upgrade.

****2. Twin-Wheel SmoothTrack System****

Standard Panelift doors run on single-wheel rollers in the track. Panelift Icon upgrades to a twin-wheel (dual wheel) system that distributes the door's weight more evenly across the track. The result is noticeably smoother, quieter operation — particularly valuable if your garage sits below a bedroom or if you arrive home late.

The SmoothTrack system does require a minimum of 140mm sideroom (compared to 120mm standard), so it's worth checking your garage dimensions.

****3. Doubled Spring Life — 20,000 Cycles****

Panelift's springs are rated at 10,000 cycles. Icon doubles that to 20,000 cycles. At a typical 5 cycles per day, that's roughly 10–11 years of spring life before replacement is needed — essentially doubling the interval between your first major maintenance event.

Spring replacement isn't cheap (\$300–\$500+ for parts and labour), so the longer-rated springs represent genuine long-term value.

****4. Corrosion-Resistant Stainless Steel Cables****

Standard Panelift uses galvanised steel lifting cables. Panelift Icon upgrades to stainless steel cables that resist corrosion far better, particularly in coastal and high-humidity environments. If you're within 5–10 kilometres of the coast, this upgrade alone can prevent premature cable failure.

****5. 360° Perimeter Seals****

Panelift Icon features full perimeter seals — top, bottom, and both sides — that create a tighter barrier against leaves, dust, insects, and weather. Standard Panelift has a bottom seal but doesn't offer the same level of all-round sealing.

****6. Greater Maximum Height — Up to 3.99m****

If your garage has a taller-than-standard opening (common in homes designed for caravans, boats, or 4WDs with roof racks), Panelift Icon accommodates heights up to 3.99m versus Panelift's 3.415m maximum.

****7. Extended Warranty — 5 Years Standard****

Panelift Icon carries a 5-year standard warranty, compared to 3 years for Panelift. Both extend to 10 years under the Total Confidence Warranty when purchased with a B&D; opener, but the longer base warranty reflects B&D's confidence in the upgraded components.

Exclusive Finish Ranges — Icon Only

Beyond the shared Colorbond® and Knotwood ranges, Panelift Icon unlocks two premium finish collections that aren't available on standard Panelift:

****Sheer Panel Collection® (12 colours)****

Made from durable Alpolic aluminium composite, the Sheer Panel Collection® creates a floating, seamless appearance with clean contemporary lines. These panels are available in four different configuration options, letting you personalise the look to suit your façade.

Colours include: White, Milk White, Off White, Anthracite Grey, Monument, Black, Medium Metallic Bronze, Silver Metallic, Medium Grey Metallic, Dark Grey Metallic, Manganese Metallic, and Sparkling Black.

Sheer Panel is the choice for modern architectural homes, new builds with clean lines, and anyone who wants their garage door to look like it belongs on a design magazine cover.

****Natural Finishes (7 colours)****

Inspired by raw materials and organic textures, the Natural Finishes range brings a tactile, earthy quality to the door face. These aluminium composite panels are available in four panel configurations.

Colours include: Limestone, Concrete, Granite, Bronze Rust, Amber Rust, Burnt Stone, and Midnight Stone.

Natural Finishes suit industrial-modern homes, rural and regional properties, and any design that draws on stone, concrete, or weathered metal as architectural elements.

Finish Options Compared

The finish you choose defines the street presence of your home. Here's how the four main finish families compare across the two doors.

Colorbond® Steel — Available on Both

The backbone of the range. Twenty-nine colours engineered with a five-layer design for corrosion resistance and UV stability. Available on both Panelift and Panelift Icon across all five profiles (Nullarbor, Seville, Madrid, Statesman, Grange) in Smooth or Woodgrain texture.

****Best for:**** Matching existing Colorbond® elements (roof, gutters, fascia, fencing). The most cost-effective finish option with the widest colour range.

Knotwood Timber-Look — Available on Both

Twelve colours that replicate real timber species using sublimated printing on steel. The strength and durability of Colorbond® steel with the visual warmth of wood. No sanding, staining, or resealing required.

Available on Nullarbor, Seville, and Madrid profiles (7 colours). Nullarbor profile only (5 additional colours).

****Best for:**** Homes with timber elements — decks, cladding, fencing — where you want the garage door to complement natural materials without the timber maintenance burden.

Sheer Panel Collection® — Panelift Icon Only

Aluminium composite panels in 12 contemporary colours with four panel configurations. Creates a premium, seamless, almost frameless aesthetic.

****Best for:**** Modern and architectural homes, minimalist designs, and homeowners who want a distinctive, designer-level street presence.

Natural Finishes — Panelift Icon Only

Aluminium composite panels in 7 raw-material-inspired colours with four panel configurations. Organic textures that look like stone, concrete, and rusted metal.

****Best for:**** Industrial-modern homes, rural and coastal properties, and designs that reference natural or weathered materials.

Insulation — Insul-Shield™ on Both Doors

Both Panelift and Panelift Icon support B&D's Insul-Shield™ insulation upgrade. This is an optional extra, not a standard inclusion on either door.

Insul-Shield™ uses graphite-embedded expanded polystyrene (EPS) bonded to the interior face of each panel. The insulation:

- Acts as a thermal barrier, reducing heat transfer between the garage and your home
- Dampens sound — particularly useful if your garage shares a wall with living areas or sits below a bedroom
- Creates a cleaner, finished interior appearance (the raw steel backing is covered)
- Adds physical thickness to the panels, making the door harder to penetrate or flex

****Is there any difference between Insul-Shield™ on Panelift versus Icon?****

The insulation material and application method are the same across both doors. However, Panelift Icon's 360° perimeter seals create a tighter overall envelope, which means less air leakage around the door edges. In practice, an insulated Panelift Icon will perform marginally better as a thermal barrier than an insulated standard Panelift, because the seals reduce the gaps where conditioned air escapes.

****When insulation matters most:****

- Attached garages that share walls with living areas
- Garages used as workshops, home gyms, or hobby spaces
- Homes in extreme climates — hot summers in Queensland or cold winters in Victoria and Tasmania
- Garages below bedrooms where temperature and noise transfer are concerns

Comparison Table

Feature Panelift Panelift Icon --- --- ---	**Construction**	Colorbond® steel Colorbond® steel		
Pinchfree™ hinges	✓ ✓	**Panel profiles**	Nullarbor, Seville, Madrid, Statesman, Grange	
Nullarbor, Seville, Madrid, Statesman, Grange	**Smooth Nullarbor profile**	X (Woodgrain only)	✓	
	Textures	Smooth, Woodgrain Smooth, Woodgrain	**Colorbond® colours**	29 colours 29 colours
	Knotwood timber-look	12 colours 12 colours	**Sheer Panel Collection®**	X ✓ (12 colours, 4 configurations)
	Natural Finishes	X ✓ (7 colours, 4 configurations)	**Windows**	Statesman & Grange profiles Statesman & Grange profiles
	Insul-Shield™ insulation	Optional Optional	**Auto-Lock™ deadbolt**	Not included ✓ Standard
	Track system	Single-wheel rollers Twin-wheel SmoothTrack	**Lifting cables**	Galvanised steel Stainless steel (corrosion-resistant)
	Perimeter seals	Bottom seal 360° (top, bottom, both sides)	**Spring cycles**	10,000 20,000
	Maximum door height	Up to 3.415m Up to 3.99m	**Standard warranty**	3 years 5 years
	Total Confidence Warranty	10 years (with B&D; opener) 10 years (with B&D; opener)	**Wind region suitability**	Region A & B Region A & B
	Price positioning	Mid-range sectional Premium sectional		

The Price Gap — What You Get for the Extra Investment

B&D; doesn't publish fixed retail pricing (all doors are custom-measured and quoted), so we can't give you a dollar figure. But the price difference between Panelift and Panelift Icon reflects specific, tangible upgrades rather than vague "premium" branding.

Here's what your additional investment buys:

****Doubled spring life (10,000 → 20,000 cycles):**** This alone can save you one spring replacement over the life of the door — typically \$300–\$500+ in parts and labour.

****Auto-Lock™ included:**** Adds automatic deadbolt security without a separate purchase or installation appointment.

****Stainless steel cables:**** Longer cable life, especially in corrosive environments. Cable replacement is a service call you'd rather avoid.

****SmoothTrack twin-wheel system:**** Quieter, smoother daily operation for the life of the door.

****360° perimeter seals:**** Better weather, dust, and pest protection from day one.

****Taller maximum height:**** If you need a door over 3.415m, Icon is the only option.

****Exclusive finishes:**** If you want Sheer Panel or Natural Finishes, these are only available on Icon. No amount of spending on a standard Panelift will unlock these ranges.

The practical question isn't "is Icon worth more?" — it clearly is, on specification. The question is whether those specific upgrades matter for your home, your garage, and how you use the space.

Which One for Your Home

Standard Suburban Home

****Choose: Panelift****

Your garage faces the street, you park two cars in it, and you want a door that matches the Colorbond® roof. Panelift in a matching Colorbond® colour with the Seville or Madrid profile will look sharp, operate reliably, and cost less than Icon. Add Insul-Shield™ if the garage shares a wall with living areas.

Modern New Build

****Choose: Panelift Icon with Sheer Panel Collection®****

If your home has clean lines, a flat or skillion roof, and a contemporary colour palette, the Sheer Panel Collection® transforms the garage door into an architectural feature. Anthracite Grey, Monument, or Sparkling Black in a seamless panel configuration will complement modern renders and dark window frames. The smooth Nullarbor profile — exclusive to Icon in its smooth finish — reinforces the minimalist aesthetic.

Heritage or Hamptons-Style Home

****Choose: Panelift or Panelift Icon with Statesman profile + windows****

The Statesman profile with Stockton or Plain window inserts delivers that classic raised-panel, Hamptons-inspired look. If security and long-term value matter, step up to Icon for Auto-Lock™ and doubled spring life. If budget is the priority, standard Panelift in Colorbond® Surfmist® or Shale Grey™ nails the look at a lower price point.

Architectural or Designer Home

****Choose: Panelift Icon with Natural Finishes or Sheer Panel Collection®****

Homes designed by architects often feature raw materials — exposed concrete, Corten steel, natural stone. The Natural Finishes range (Concrete, Granite, Bronze Rust, Burnt Stone) speaks the same design language. Alternatively, the Sheer Panel Collection® in metallic finishes creates a luxe, gallery-style façade.

Rural or Regional Property

****Choose: Panelift Icon with Knotwood finish****

Timber-look finishes connect the garage door to the surrounding landscape. The Nullarbor profile with Spotted Gum, Blackbutt, or Western Red Cedar Knotwood looks at home alongside timber fencing and natural bushland. Icon's stainless steel cables and 360° seals handle rural dust and weather better than standard Panelift.

Coastal Home

****Choose: Panelift Icon****

Regardless of finish preference, the stainless steel cables and corrosion-resistant upgrades make Icon the smarter choice within 5–10 kilometres of the coast. Salt air accelerates cable and hardware deterioration. Icon's materials are built to handle it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I upgrade a standard Panelift to Panelift Icon later?

No. The differences between the two doors are built into the manufacturing — the SmoothTrack twin-wheel system, stainless steel cables, Auto-Lock™ mechanism, and 360° perimeter seals are all factory-integrated. You can't retrofit these upgrades onto an existing Panelift door. If you want the Icon features, you need to order Icon from the start.

Do both doors use the same openers?

Yes. Both Panelift and Panelift Icon are compatible with B&D's range of Automatic Technology sectional door openers, including the Smart, Smart Pro, and Secure models. The opener type doesn't change based on the door model.

Is the Sheer Panel Collection® more expensive than Colorbond®?

Yes, Sheer Panel finishes sit at a higher price point than standard Colorbond® because they use Alpolic aluminium composite panels rather than steel. The material, manufacturing, and configuration options all contribute to a premium price. Your B&D; dealer can quote the specific difference for your door size.

How many spring cycles does a typical household use per year?

At an average of 4–5 cycles per day (two cars coming and going, plus the occasional extra trip), you'll use roughly 1,500–1,800 cycles per year. That means Panelift's 10,000-cycle springs last around 5–7 years, while Icon's 20,000-cycle springs last around 11–13 years before replacement is needed.

Can I get Knotwood finishes on a Statesman or Grange profile?

No. Knotwood timber-look finishes are only available on the Nullarbor, Seville, and Madrid profiles (with five additional colours exclusive to Nullarbor only). Statesman and Grange profiles are available in Colorbond® steel, including the Timbergrain® finishes (Classic Cedar® and Caoba®).

Do I need Panelift Icon for bushfire or cyclone zones?

Not necessarily. B&D;'s BAL-Maze (bushfire-rated to BAL-40) and Storm-Shield (cyclone-rated to Category 5 equivalent) are specialist upgrades within the Panelift platform and are specified based on your building requirements, not the Panelift vs Icon choice. Your building surveyor and B&D; dealer will determine the correct specification for your location.

Is the 10-Year Total Confidence Warranty the same on both doors?

Yes. The 10-Year Total Confidence Warranty applies equally to both Panelift and Panelift Icon, provided the door is purchased together with a B&D; (Automatic Technology) opener and registered online at www.bnd.com.au. The only warranty difference is the base warranty: 3 years for Panelift, 5 years for Icon.

Does Panelift Icon's SmoothTrack system require more sideroom?

Yes. The twin-wheel SmoothTrack system requires a minimum of 140mm sideroom each side, compared to the standard 120mm. This needs to extend above the head of the opening to allow for bracket fixing. Most garages accommodate this easily, but it's worth checking your measurements with your installer before committing to Icon.

For a complimentary measure and quote, call B&D; on [13 62 63](tel:136263) or visit your nearest [B&D; Accredited Dealer](<https://www.bnd.com.au/dealers-near-me/>). Use the [B&D; Garage Door Visualiser](<https://www.bnd.com.au/explore/garage-door-visualiser/>) to see how different profiles and finishes look on your home before you decide.