

# Slide Gate vs Swing Gate Selection Guide

## Introduction

Gate selection significantly impacts property access control, security, aesthetics, and maintenance requirements. Slide gates and swing gates each offer distinct advantages suited to different applications. This guide compares both systems to support informed decision-making.

## Slide Gate Applications & Advantages

Commercial properties, industrial facilities, apartment complexes, and large residential estates favor slide gates. Advantages: minimal property frontage required (gates slide parallel to perimeter), no swing obstruction (important for narrow driveways), robust security (gates slide into overlap position), weather resistance (continuous seal along track). Typically handles 400-800 lb gates.

## Swing Gate Applications & Advantages

Residential estates, small commercial properties, and decorative entrances commonly use swing gates. Advantages: traditional aesthetic appeal, minimal maintenance (no track debris issues), flexible mounting (post-mounted), natural appearance (resembles traditional manual gates). Dual-swing configurations balance gate weight.

## Space Efficiency Comparison

Slide gates require continuous clear space parallel to property line for gate travel path (15-20 feet typical). Swing gates require clear arc space perpendicular to entrance (gate width × 1.5 minimum). Narrow driveways and small properties strongly favor slide gates.

## Vehicle Detection Loops

Install inductive loop detectors at property entrance to automatically trigger gate opening. Loops sense ferrous metal in vehicle frame. Typically positioned 20-30 feet from gate. Prevents manual activation need for frequent entries.

## Safety Requirements

Both systems require UL325 compliance: photoeyes, motion sensors, safety edges. Swing gates additionally require end-of-travel shock protection. Slide gates require track obstruction detection. Monthly safety testing mandatory for both systems.

## **Speed Considerations**

Slide gate speed: 8-12 seconds typical opening/closing. Swing gate speed: 5-8 seconds typical. Heavy gates (800+ lbs) require slower speeds. Consider user patience and emergency access requirements when setting speed parameters.