

DIY MISTAKES

Common DIY Roller Shutter Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them)

Every mistake on this page has cost an Australian homeowner real money in the last 12 months. Each one is easy to avoid with a small amount of preparation. If you're reading this before ordering the kit, the next 5 minutes will save you a few hundred dollars.

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<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/diy-roller-shutter-mistakes>

QUICK ANSWER

The five most expensive DIY roller shutter mistakes in Australia are: **wrong measurements** (cut-to-size kits are non-returnable), **unsafe or uncertified mains wiring** (illegal and voids insurance), **wrong bracket type for the wall**, **out-of-level head box** (causes binding within weeks), and **voiding the warranty** by failing to follow brand installation requirements.

Each is avoidable with a careful read of the manual, a second person verifying the work, and booking a licensed electrician for any mains-power task.

Bottom line: The most expensive DIY mistakes are the ones that arrive in writing. Wrong-size kits and voided warranties. Both are avoidable.

Who this is for: DIYers about to start a roller shutter project and wanting to avoid known pitfalls.

Typical price ranges

Indicative supplied-and-installed pricing across Australia in 2026. Final pricing depends on installer assessment.

ITEM	TYPICAL RANGE	NOTES
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Wrong-size kit (non-returnable)	\$220-\$850 lost	kits are cut-to-order, no refund
Uncertified wiring rework	\$300-\$600	electrician must redo + re-certify
Wrong bracket type. Wall damage	\$150-\$500	patching + re-drilling
Voided motor warranty (early failure)	\$300-\$700	full replacement at your cost

What changes the price

Mistake 1: measuring in mm and cm on the same form

Suppliers receive measurements in millimetres. A homeowner writing "150 cm" instead of "1500 mm" can result in a kit cut to 150 mm wide. Useless and non-refundable. Always write mm, always confirm with the supplier.

Mistake 2: measuring at only one point

Window openings are rarely perfectly square. Width measured at the top can differ from the bottom by 5-15 mm. Always measure at three heights and three widths, and order from the smallest of each.

Mistake 3: DIY mains wiring on electric shutters

Uncertified electrical work is illegal in every Australian state, voids home insurance, voids the motor warranty and creates a fire/shock risk. Book a licensed electrician, no exceptions.

Mistake 4: wrong bracket fixings for the wall

Timber-frame walls need screws into studs (not the plasterboard). Brick veneer needs masonry plugs in the brick course (not the air cavity). Solid masonry needs deeper plugs through both leaves. Mismatched fixings can pull out and damage the wall.

Mistake 5: skipping the level check

A head box that's 5 mm out of level over a 1500 mm window means the shutter binds within 5-10 cycles. Check level at every stage. Initial line, after bracket mounting, after head box install, after side channels.

Mistake 6: voiding warranty by ignoring installation manual

Brands like Somfy, Becker, Alpha and Nice require specific bracket spacing and side-channel screw counts for warranty cover. Failing to follow them voids the motor warranty. Read the manual, follow it exactly, retain photos of compliance.

Mistake 7: ordering without checking lead time

Cut-to-size kits often have 2-5 week lead times. Longer for custom colours. Ordering without confirming lead time can delay an entire renovation.

The single most expensive mistake

Without question: ordering a wrong-size kit. Cut-to-size shutters cannot be returned or recut. A single \$500 kit ordered to the wrong dimensions is \$500 straight in the bin, plus the time to re-order and re-measure correctly. Spend 15 extra minutes measuring with a second person before you click "buy".

The most dangerous mistake

Wiring an electric motor to mains power without a licensed electrician. In Australia this is illegal under AS/NZS 3000, voids home insurance and the motor warranty, and creates a serious fire/shock risk. Even if you've done electrical work before, the law is unambiguous. Book a sparkie.

Recovering from a DIY mistake

If you've already installed a shutter that's binding, leaking weather, or otherwise misbehaving. Most local installers will come out and rectify a DIY install for a labour-only fee (typically \$150-\$350 per

window). Some won't touch DIY work at all. [Get a quote from a local installer](#) who explicitly accepts DIY rectification work if you need help fixing a mistake.

Checklist before you accept a quote

- ☐ **Measurements in mm only, three points each**
Never mix mm and cm; order from smallest reading.
- ☐ **Independent second-person verification**
Catches almost every measurement error.
- ☐ **Licensed electrician booked for any mains work**
No exceptions.
- ☐ **Correct bracket type for your wall**
Confirm with supplier before ordering.
- ☐ **Level check at every stage**
Initial line, brackets, head box, side channels.
- ☐ **Manual followed exactly for warranty cover**
Retain photos of compliant install.

Frequently asked questions

What is the most common DIY roller shutter mistake?

Wrong measurements. Cut-to-size kits are non-returnable and an out-by-3 mm error can render a kit useless. Always measure at three heights and three widths, in millimetres only, and have a second person verify.

Can I wire an electric roller shutter myself in Australia?

No. Mains-power wiring must be performed by a licensed electrician under AS/NZS 3000. Uncertified electrical work is illegal in every Australian state, voids home insurance and voids the motor warranty.

Will DIY installation void my roller shutter warranty?

Sometimes. Some brands void warranty entirely on DIY installs; others have a separate owner-installer warranty with shorter cover. Always read the warranty document before buying and retain photos of a compliant install.

What do I do if I've already made a DIY install mistake?

Most local installers will rectify a DIY install for a labour-only fee, typically \$150-\$350 per window. Some won't touch DIY work. Ask explicitly when getting quotes. Use our quote comparison to find installers who accept rectification work.

Related reading

How to measure for roller shutters

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/how-to-measure-for-roller-shutters>

How to install roller shutters

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/how-to-install-roller-shutters>

DIY vs installer comparison

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/diy-vs-installer-roller-shutters>

DIY roller shutter cost

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/diy-roller-shutter-cost>

Compare installer quotes

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/quote-compare>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is general information only. It is not professional, financial, legal or trade advice, and it does not take account of your particular circumstances, property or requirements.

All prices shown are indicative estimates drawn from marketplace data and change over time. They are not quotes, offers or valuations. Measurements, site conditions, product specification, electrical work, access, location and supplier terms all change the final figure. Only a written quote from a supplier, after inspection and final measurement, is an actual price.

Installation, repair and maintenance work carries real risk. In Australia, mains electrical work must be carried out by a licensed electrician under AS/NZS 3000. Roller shutter tension springs are under high load and can cause serious injury. Do not attempt electrical work, spring work or work at heights unless you are qualified and equipped to do so safely. If you are in any doubt, stop and engage a qualified professional.

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Made a DIY mistake or want to avoid making one?

Get quotes from local installers. Including those who accept DIY rectification work.

Compare quotes: <https://shutthefrontup.com.au/quote-compare>