



How to Use a Door Lock Safely

You try to unlock the door, but all of a sudden, you find the key bow in your hand and the blade inside the keyhole. The solution to this problem involves fixing the lock and replacing the key. But how can you prevent this kind of annoying situation? Let's find out.

Keep the lock clean and lubricated - Use compressed air to keep the lock and the keyway, in particular, free from dust, dirt and debris. Run close inspection for rust and remove any traces of it timely. Make sure that you use a completely safe rust remover. Graphite powder lubricant especially formulated for locks is ideal for proper lubrication. It's easy to apply and you will enjoy smooth door lock performance for long time to come.

Inspect the key for bending and damage regularly - Check if the blade is straight by holding it next to the edge of a table or a desk. Even if it is just slightly bent, you will need to get the problem resolved. Key replacement is typically the best solution in this case. Watch out for dullness of the peaks and tip too. These issues are not particularly common, but if they are present, you will need a new key.

Clean rusty keys without delay - Rust is a problem which you can deal with at home. You just need to soak the rusty keys in vinegar you have boiled in advance. The liquid should not be hot when you use it, however. After twenty minutes, you can take the keys out and the rust will come off. You can also try using rust remover. If these solutions don't help, then you should get new keys.

Insert the key into the lock smoothly - Make sure that you point the blade right and go ahead. You don't have to push it hard. If you feel some kind of resistance, you should troubleshoot the lockset with cleaning and lubrication. When these measures don't work, you have to get the lock fixed right away.

Never apply force to the side when turning the key - This is one of the worst mistakes which you can make. If you go just slightly over what the blade can handle, you will end up with a broken key. You can use a bit of force to unlock the door, but it's important to apply it in forward direction only. If you feel any resistance, stop and get a solution to the problem.

Never use the key as a door handle - Doing this will also pose a high risk of the key breaking. When you hear the bolt retracting, hold the key in its turned position, grab the handle and push the door to open.

The following manual was written by a Locksmith University Place professional.

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