

Make Your Door Locks Last Longer With These Tips

Your door locks are your first line of defence, [keeping your home safe](#) and secure. But like any mechanism, they need care to stay in top condition. By giving your locks a little care, you can ensure they last longer, function smoothly, and provide the security you rely on. Here are some simple yet effective maintenance tips to keep your door locks in good shape and functional for longer.



Regular Cleaning

It is important to keep your locks clean first. You should wipe down the surface of your locks with a damp cloth. You can use the compressed air method to clean the internal mechanism. It is recommended to do this once every few months for regular door locks and uPVC locks as well. The keys bring tiny particles of dust and dirt into the keyway each time you open the door. If you want your locks to work efficiently, keep them clean.

To effectively clean your locks, follow these easy steps:

1. Prepare the necessary supplies – a clean cloth, a small brush and mild detergent.
2. Clean the lock's exterior with a cloth.
3. Access hard-to-reach areas (keyways, crevices) with the brush.
4. You need to use a detergent solution to clean the lock's surface gently. You need to stay away from harsh detergents as they may damage the finish.
5. With a clean towel, wipe the lock to remove any last bits of residue.

Door Lock Lubrication

The next step after cleaning is lubrication. Lubricant sprays based on silicone will work well for this purpose. You can spray it quickly by inserting the nozzle into the keyhole. In this way, the internal parts will remain smooth and prevent rusting. Choose a quality lubricant rather than just any lubricant, as many can leave residue in your keyways. Your local locksmith can advise you on which lubrication product to use.

Remember, regular lubrication keeps your locks operating

efficiently and extends their lifespan.

Don't Force the Lock

One common mistake that can significantly reduce the life of your locks is applying excessive force. Whether it's trying to turn a stiff key or forcing a jammed lock, exerting too much pressure can damage the lock's internal mechanism. Instead of forcing the lock, consider these alternatives:

- **Lubricating** – Apply lubricant first and gently turn the key back and forth to ease the lock.
- **Ask for assistance** – When a lock remains stubborn, consult a professional locksmith who can fix the problem without further damage.

Don't Use Low-Quality Keys

The quality of your keys plays a vital role in lock maintenance. Low-quality or damaged keys can harm the lock's interior, leading to premature wear. To ensure your keys are lock-friendly:

- **Keep keys clean** – Avoid exposing your keys to dirt, sand, or moisture, as these elements can accelerate wear.
- **Replace worn keys** – Inspect your keys regularly for signs of damage, such as jagged edges or warping. Replace them promptly to prevent lock damage.

Investing in high-quality, well-maintained keys can significantly contribute to the longevity of your locks.

Check and Adjust Door Alignment

It is sometimes the door frame that causes problems, not the lock. Your lock will not work efficiently if your door is not aligned properly. The door frame should be stable and straight. If necessary, tighten any loose screws.

If your door lock is not aligning properly, it can strain the mechanism and [affect its functionality](#).

Ensure the lock, strike plate, and door align correctly. If misalignment is noticed, adjust the strike plate or seek professional help.

Protect Your Locks From External Factors

Exposure to extreme weather conditions can affect the durability of your locks. There are efficient ways to keep your locks protected.

Weatherproofing Your Locks

There are a number of environmental factors that affect locks, including rain, humidity, and temperature changes. Protect your locks from weather-related damage by:

- **Using weather-resistance coatings** – Consider installing a storm door or using a protective cover to shield the lock from harsh elements.
- **Regular inspections** – Periodically check your locks for damage and signs of rust. If there is any buildup, clean them accordingly.
- **Lock placement** – The location of your locks can impact their lifespan. Ensure your locks are appropriately placed to minimise wear and tear:
- **Avoiding direct sunlight** – Prolonged exposure to direct

sunlight can cause locks to deteriorate. If possible, install locks in shaded areas.

- **Optimal placement** – Place locks where they will not be exposed to extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rain or snow.

Prope Key Cutting

Keep the original keys if you want duplicates. You can wear down your lock's inner mechanisms if you use a duplicate of a duplicate key. Sometimes, the key itself needs to be replaced. When keys are not replaced, they can wear out over time and cause problems with the lock. In this case, you can either rekey your locks or replace them.

Upgrade Your Locks

Although regular maintenance will help your locks last longer, there may be instances when updating is the better course of action.

These are some indicators that an upgrade is necessary:

- **Excessive wear** – If your locks are worn out and fail frequently, consider replacing them with more durable options. The experts recommend changing door locks every five to seven years. You should, however, replace the locks immediately after moving into a new house for security reasons. You can look for locksmith services for lock change and installation in your area.
- **Advanced security needs** – If you desire enhanced security, explore modern lock technologies that offer advanced features. Installing digital smart locks is one of the best ways to turn your place into a smart home. When considering lock upgrades, it's advisable to consult a professional. A [qualified locksmith](#) can

assess your needs, evaluate your security requirements, and recommend suitable lock options.

Conclusion

Locks are the guardians of our homes and businesses, providing the security we rely on daily. By implementing regular maintenance practices, avoiding common mistakes, and taking protective measures, you can ensure your locks have a long and reliable lifespan.

Don't overlook the importance of lock maintenance, as well-maintained locks are your first line of defence against intruders. Keep your locks in top condition, and they will faithfully serve you for years to come. For expert guidance and lock-related services, don't hesitate to consult with a trusted locksmith. Your security is worth the investment.