



How to Lower House Lockout Risk

It's more than annoying to be locked out of your house or office. Being so close yet not being able to enter is obviously frustrating. You are constantly asking yourself if you have turned the office machine or the oven off. Is there a way to prevent this kind of emergency situation? Here are the things you can do to lower the risk of a house lockout.

Carry your keys at all times - Use a key chain that has something distinct about it, such as a unique knot or a splash of bold colors. This will lower the risk of you leaving your keys somewhere and then forgetting about them. Avoid carrying keys in your jacket pockets and especially in trouser pockets. It is best to keep them in a zipped compartment inside a bag. This will lower the risk of loss and theft considerably.

Provide good maintenance to exterior door locks - It involves cleaning and lubricating the locksets. It's important for you to use graphite powder lubricant, which is especially formulated for locks. It's fine if some of it comes out when you apply it. This can actually help for proper removal of all dirt and debris particles. Remember to clean and lubricate locks at least once a year to prevent them from getting stuck, especially during the colder months of the year.

Watch out for key damage - Inspect the keys for dullness of the tip and peaks, for bending of the blade and for signs of rust. While rusty keys can be cleaned, worn and bent ones should be changed without delay. Unless you replace the keys, there will be a very high risk of them breaking and leaving you locked outside of your home or office at one point or another.

Get old locks changed timely - Constant problems with performance and clearly visible wearing are red flags which you should not ignore. Although door locks are durable, they are not made to last forever. It's easy to tell when a lockset is approaching the end of its useful life. When you notice it, have the lock replaced to avoid house lockout and even greater trouble.

Unlock the door carefully - If you use too much force to turn the key and you apply it to the side rather than forward, then you are highly likely to end up with a broken key. Insert the blade smoothly and then turn the blade gently. If you feel great resistance when inserting and/or turning the key, then you should get your lock repaired as soon as possible.

The following manual was written by a Locksmith Brentwood professional.

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