



Glossary for Locksmith US

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Lockout service

When people lose or forget their keys or can't open the door of their property because of lock problems, they are locked out. The assistance provided by professionals is called lockout service. It might involve the replacement of the key, the extraction of a broken key, lock repair and door opening.

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Chip car key

Modern car keys contain a little chip so that they can communicate with the central security car system. The key is programmed to work with a specific car and that's why one chip car key can open only one car. The security system grants access when it recognizes the key.

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Lock rekeying

Locks have pins, which must match the key used for the specific door lock. When the key is inserted, the pins are pushed up or down with the help of springs and so the key can turn. If the key must be changed for security reasons, these pins are replaced instead of the lock. That's rekeying.

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Lock repair services

These are the services provided by professionals when there's something wrong with the lock. When lock damage doesn't require a lock replacement, the problem is fixed with repairs. This might involve aligning the bolt, tightening the cylinder or removing a broken key. These services are often offered urgently since lock problems might compromise one's security.

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Single cylinder deadbolts

Single cylinder deadbolt locks are locked and unlocked with a key only from outside. At the inner part of the door, there is usually a twisted handle or a knob with a button. These are used to lock and unlock the door from inside. Single cylinder locks are the most common type of home locks.

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Knob locks

Knob locks have a button or a twisted thumb-turn to lock and unlock the door. Although there are often used on exterior residential doors, they don't offer security on their own and they are often combined with deadbolt locks. The cylinder of these locks is found on the knob and they can be easily bypassed.

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Digital locks

There are many types of digital locks. These do not require a mechanical key to lock and unlock the door. Most residential digital locks can be locked and unlocked with the help of a keypad (might be a touchscreen, too), a fob or a regular key.

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Key change

When the key is changed, it becomes completely different from the original one. Since each key fits to only one door lock, the lock must change too. The lock is not actually replaced, just rekeyed. Its pins matching the ridges of the key are replaced and a new key is cut to match the rekeyed lock.

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Throw

Each deadbolt lock has a bolt, which comes out of the faceplate at the edge of the door and must enter the hole at the strike plate. The bolt must be long enough so that the door won't be kicked down or bypassed with a card. The length to which the bolt projected is called a throw.

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Lock lubrication

Lock parts are made of steel and need to be lubricated. They're properly oiled when the lock is disassembled and the parts are laid on a table, cleaned and then lubricated. The best lubricant for locks is graphite. Lubricants are also sprayed on keys and lock keyholes when the key isn't inserted easily.

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Cylinder

This is the main part of the lock which houses the tumbler, keyhole, pins and springs. Cylinder locks have the entire lock mechanism in the cylinder. There are single and double cylinder locks, depending on whether the door locks and unlocks with a key only from the outside or from inside as well.

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Faceplate

The faceplate of door locks is the metal plate which covers the lock. It's what we see on the door. It's the metal plate that the handle is attached to. It's mounted with screws, comes in different sizes and is necessary because it hides the actual lock mechanism and increases the aesthetics of the door.

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Lock installation

The installation of a new lock often involves the removal of the existing (old) lock. In this case, we are talking about lock replacement and installation. When new locks are installed, the door is drilled according to the size and type of lock. The measurements must be precise or the door won't lock correctly.

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Trunk opening

The term "trunk opening" refers to the service provided by technicians when the car trunk doesn't open for any reason. It might not open because the lock is stuck or damaged, or because you the key may have gotten lost. Depending on the problem, professionals will either have to cut a new key or fix the lock.

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Unlocking steering wheels

Car steering wheels are often locked due to ignition problems or as a security precaution. They might also lock if you turn them with force. In such cases the steering wheel must be turned counter clockwise so that the pressure will be released. Steering wheel unlocking services are offered by professionals.

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High security locks

Locks offer high security when they are durable and resistant. The American National Standard Institute tests locks to identify if they are durable enough. Locks providing high

security are installed on exterior residential doors and companies. They often have bolts and/or are digital and are grade 1 or 2 at the ANSI rating.

Locksmith Simi Valley

Phone: 805-200-5643

<http://www.simivalley-locksmith.com>

