



## How to Avoid House Lockout

Everyone thinks that it can never happen to them. However, it is quite common for a house lockout to occur. You may lose your key in your office or in a store without even noticing. Even worse, the key may get stolen. Since the risk of a lockout is sufficiently high, you should take effective measures for prevention. They are simple, but highly effective.

### Lockout Prevention Measures

Change all keys after lock replacement - This is essential after residential rekey. Many people tend to leave their old keys lying around and some even leave them on their keychain. You have to ensure that you will get a sufficient number of new keys for everyone in the household plus one or two spare ones. Dispose of the old keys in a safe manner. Explain to everyone in your family how the new keys should be used. This will lower the risk of an accident to the very possible minimum.

Leave a spare key with a trusted person - This person can be a relative, a close friend or a neighbor that you know well. It should be easy for you to reach this person in case of an emergency. You also need to ensure that the key will be kept safe. In case of a rekey, you should not forget to get in touch with the person keeping the old key and to replace it with the new spare one.

Keep a spare key in your office - This is an effective measure provided that the item will be effectively protected. You should keep it in a safe place such as a safe or in a desk drawer with a lock. You may also consider hiding it in a place where an intruder will not look. This is a simple method for preventing home key lockout.

Store a spare key in an outdoor electrical panel with a padlock - This is a clever and safe way to keep a spare key outside of the house. You just have to ensure that no one will be able to force the panel open. Additionally, you have to place the key so that it does not interfere with the buttons and other components inside.

Replace self-locking door knobs with ones which have key holes on both sides - This is the most effective method for preventing accidental home lockouts. You will not have to worry that if you

accidentally pull the opened door from the outside without having a key in your pocket, you will remain locked outside.

#### Mistakes to Watch Out for

Never leave keys hidden in the outdoor area of your property - Thieves are well aware of the most common hiding places including the mail box, under plant pots, inside hollow garden dwarfs and on the flat tops of lights installed higher above the ground. They are perfectly well familiar with the more modern hiding solutions such as fake rocks.

Avoid leaving house keys inside your car - This is perhaps one of the worst mistakes which any person can make as far as home security is concerned. If a thief breaks into your car, he can easily drive to your home and rob your house. Similarly, garage door keys and remote controls must never be left inside vehicles. Keep all keys and remotes on a keychain which stays in your bag.

Take these measures to ensure that you will not get locked out of your house.

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