



How to Fix Home Door Locks

There are many door locks designed for home use and different ways of dealing with their problems. Issues vary, too. There might be problems related to the door knob, key, lockset, strike plate or mechanism. That's just for mechanical locks, because digital locks are entirely different. Some problems are not easily fixed or not worth fixing. Since such matters are related to one's security, it's better to have damaged locks replaced instead of struggling to take care of them every now and then. For now, let's focus on some common problems which can be fixed quite easily.

Learn what to do when common lock issues arise

Behind the lock we see mounted on the door, there is a rather complex mechanism with pins, springs, cylinders and other parts. If any of them is broken, the lock should be replaced. If the lock is not aligned, things are easier. It will just take some patience. So, let's see how you can deal with some common issues.

* The door doesn't open. It might be as simple as you using the wrong key. Another very simple explanation is that the door is stuck because it was recently painted and hasn't dried completely. Such problems are easily solved. Sometimes, the door doesn't open because the lock is frozen or very dirty. So, try cleaning and lubricating it and then make sure the key is inserted all the way in the hole before you turn it. In order to clean the security door lock, you must remove it and brush debris away with a toothbrush.

* The key isn't inserted. It might be either a key or lock problem. Check that you are holding the right key and if you are, make sure it is not bent. In the case of the latter, you have to replace it. For now, just lubricate the lock and try using the key again. If the weather is cold, heat the key with a lighter and then try inserting it again. If this is a new key, file the edges. If it still doesn't go in, it's a bad key replacement and you'll have to get a new one made again.

* The door doesn't lock. For regular deadbolts, the bolt must come out all the way so that it will be inserted in the hole of the strike plate at the door jamb all the way, too. If it doesn't come out, you have to disassemble the lock and fix it. It is probably loose and the screws must be tightened. If the bolt seems to be fine, check the strike plate. It might not be aligned. In this case, loosen the screws and put the strike plate in its initial position. Before

you tighten the screws, check the bolt is aligned with the strike plate by closing the door and trying locking it. This is an easy lock fix.

* The key turns and the door fails to lock. In this case, the cylinder is probably loose. You have to remove the lock in order to tighten the cylinder's screws and in order to do that you have to remove the faceplate first. The cylinder screws must turn clockwise. Make sure the slot is vertical.

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