



How to Maintain Home Locks

With proper maintenance each and every door lockset can function properly for longer. This guarantees effective operation of the lock and the highest level of safety for the property. There are some simple maintenance tasks which you can perform yourself. Follow the instructions provided below to keep home locks in excellent condition in the long term.

Cleaning Maintenance

Frequency - It is best if you clean the locks in your house two times a year. If you have small children or pets, you may choose to do it more frequently. Additionally, you need to provide cleaning immediately whenever you notice dirt, grime, oil, mold or other threats to the locking mechanism.

Tools and materials - For the cleaning, you will need two soft lint-free cloths. If there is stubborn dirt you may need to use a standard cleaning brush for removing it, but this is rarely necessary. You should use mild soap dissolved in warm water. You should avoid household cleaners as they may cause corrosion or another type of damage and pose the need for lock change.

Procedure - Dip one of the soft cloths into the soapy water and use it to clean the lock from all sides. Use gentle stroking motion instead of circular motion. Open the door and turn the key so that the latch and bolt or bolts can come out. Remove any dirt accumulated on them as well. Squeeze the soapy water out of the cloth and dip it in clean water. Wipe all parts again to remove any traces of soap. Use the dry cloth to blot any remaining water as it may cause corrosion.

Lubrication Maintenance

Frequency - Each cleaning must be followed by lubrication. Lubrication maintenance is important because a lockset may become harder to open or get completely frozen. In such cases lock repair will be required.

Lubricant selection - Choose a lubrication product which is specially designed for locks. Consider one which contains Teflon as this ingredient allows for more even spreading of the lubricant and makes it last longer as well. Regular lubricants may not work as well as expected. Before applying any type of commercial product on the lock, you must check to confirm that you

will not void the manufacturer's warranty. Soft paper towel will be useful for the application of the lubricant.

Procedure - Apply the lubricant into the lock as per the instructions provided on the package of the product. If any dirt comes out of the lockset, you need to wipe it with the soft towel. You must not use any abrasive material for doing the wiping. Once you have lubricated the lock itself, you need to open the door and turn the key so that the latch and bolts come out. Apply lubricant on them and follow the instructions provided by the product's manufacturer.

General

Care

Scratch protection - The modern locksets are made to be sturdy and durable. However, they are not completely protected from scratches. That is why you must be careful not to scratch them with keys and other hard metal materials.

Breakage protection - Keys must be inserted gently and moved carefully. Using extra force may cause the key to break inside. In such cases, lock and key replacement will be required.

The proper use of locks and keys is as important as maintenance for durability and strength.

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