

Locksmith.id

Key Duplication & Smart Lock Guide

A free homeowner guide from locksmith.id

Locked Out? First Steps

Before you call anyone

- ☐ Check all doors and windows for an unlocked entry point
- ☐ Check with neighbors or a landlord/property manager for a spare key
- ☐ Confirm you have valid photo ID matching the address before hiring anyone

Verifying a legitimate locksmith

- ☐ A legitimate locksmith answers the phone with the company name, not just 'locksmith'
- ☐ Ask for a written estimate before any work begins
- ☐ A real locksmith arrives in a marked vehicle and shows ID/licensing on request
- ☐ Be wary of any quote that jumps sharply higher once they arrive

Rekey, Replace, or Duplicate?

Rekey when

- ☐ You've moved into a new home and don't know who has keys
- ☐ You've lost a key but the lock hardware itself is fine
- ☐ You want one key to work across multiple existing locks

Replace when

- ☐ The lock hardware is old, worn, or already damaged
- ☐ You're upgrading to a smart lock or higher security-grade deadbolt
- ☐ A break-in attempt has damaged the strike plate or cylinder

Home Security Upgrade Checklist

Low-cost upgrades

- ☐ Add a deadbolt to any exterior door that only has a knob lock
- ☐ Install a strike plate with 3-inch screws into the door frame stud
- ☐ Add a door reinforcement plate around the deadbolt

Bigger upgrades

- ☐ Consider a Grade 1 or Grade 2 commercial-grade deadbolt
- ☐ A smart lock adds keyless entry and access logs
- ☐ Reinforce sliding doors and windows, common secondary entry points

Locked out right now, or want a security check?

Run our free 60-second AI home security audit at locksmith.id, or get matched with a licensed local locksmith for a free, no-obligation quote.

Visit locksmith.id ->