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What can I do to avoid losing my keys?

You should always keep them on a keychain that is sufficiently big. Inspect the keychain for damage on a regular basis and fix it or replace it if you notice any problems. Avoid carrying keys in your pocket. It is best to place them in a bag, purse or briefcase.

2

Is it a good idea to hand my neighbor a spare key of the house?

This is helpful for dealing with house lockouts, but you have to consider the security aspect of this measure as well. Make sure that you know your neighbor well and that the person is completely trustworthy. The person must keep your key in a safe and secure place.

3

What should I do in case of lost or stolen keys?

You must head back to your house immediately or call a relative or trusted neighbor to do it. This is necessary to confirm that the house is secure. Then you must have the lock or locks with missing keys replaced. This is the most effective measure for protection.

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Should I attempt to enter the house through the window in case of a lockout?

This is a mistake which you must avoid. Firstly, you can easily get injured. Secondly, you can be seen breaking into your property and get mistaken for a burglar. This will get you into trouble with the police. Besides, you will still need a new key in the end.

5

Is it wise to keep a spare key in my yard?

Burglars can easily spot most of the commonly used hiding places. That is why this option is not a good idea. Unless you have a small locked storage space such as an electrical panel, you should not go for this option. It is best to leave a key with a close relative or friend.

6

Can I open the locked door with a credit card?

Despite the common misconception, this is actually not possible with modern locks. They have latches which are resistant to such kinds of attempts. If you try to use a credit card, it can easily get damaged or broken. The latch may get damaged as well.

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Should I let my kids carry keys?

Older children can be trusted with keys as long as you explain to them how the keys should be carried and used safely and securely. In any case, you must ensure that children of any age will not play with the door and with the lock to avoid lockouts and other accidents.

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How many spare house keys do I need?

It is best to have two keys placed with different persons. In this case, you will have better chances of dealing with a house lockout. If one of them is out of town or in a business meeting, the other one will most likely be available to help.

9

Do I need to get and use a lock pick set?

These are sets of tools which can be used for opening a door without a key. Even if you have such a set at hand, you will not be able to open the door without the necessary skills. You can cause damage which can be costly to fix. Besides, it is not safe to keep such tools at home.

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Is lock rekey the same as lock replacement?

No, the two techniques are different. In case of rekey, a key is made so that the lock can be opened. This technique is typically used in the case of a house lockout. If it cannot be performed for technical reasons, lock change may be required.

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Should I break a side glass to reach the door knob if I'm locked outside?

You must not do this as you can get injured or be mistaken for a burglar. Generally, windows and glass panels around doors must be secured with bars or reinforced glass to prevent such accidents. The use of a double-cylinder lock is also recommended.

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Is lock change recommended after a house lockout?

This is mandatory if a key has been lost or stolen. If you simply slammed the door behind you and the key remained inside, lock change will most likely not be necessary. In this case, you can consider replacement if the lock is damaged, old, outdated, and unreliable or if you need a higher level of security.

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