



## How to Repair Jammed Home Locks

We don't like it, but it happens. Our security door locks at home get jammed. Instead of locking out intruders, they lock us out and this is beyond frustrating. Since the best cure is always prevention, checking and repairing the locks in your house occasionally doesn't seem like a bad idea after all. This way, you can (almost) be sure that you won't get locked out. Of course, the question remains: what you can do when your door gets jammed?

It might jam for several reasons. There could be something wrong with the key or the lock might be damaged, dirty or misaligned. If the cause of the problem is obvious, all you have to do is take care of this particular issue. For example, if the key hasn't been inserted well or the wrong one was used in the first place, you just have to try again and this time you should use the right one. The problem becomes more annoying when you cannot figure out the reasons. In this case, you will need to troubleshoot. In other words, you might try out different methods of solving the problem and see how it goes from there.

How to troubleshoot a lock that gets jammed

- \* Spray lubricants in the keyhole. This is extremely helpful when the door lock is frozen or dirty. It is also useful when the key is slightly damaged. Once the lubricant is sprayed, wait for a minute or two and then jiggle your key to see if the lock will get unjammed. It's smart to lubricate the key, too.

- \* Lubricants are good for the moving lock parts as well. In order to lubricate the parts, you must remove the lock. Remove the faceplate and doorknob first, slide the door knob off the small metal rod (spindle) and then pull out the lock. Lay out the parts and once you clean them with a toothbrush and canned air, spray on some lubricant. Once the excess oils have dripped off, you can reassemble the lock.

- \* Check the slot at the strike plate. If the hole is not big enough for the bolt to be inserted all the way, it might get stuck. This might cause the lock to jam. When you lock the door, it might go in, but it will be hard to go out again. In this case, you need to drill a larger hole. If the slot of the strike plate is small, it's best to replace the whole plate. You don't necessarily have to have the entire lock replaced unless it is old and should be replaced.

- \* Check the strike plate again. If it is not properly aligned with the bolt, the lock will keep jamming. As the bolt moves out of the faceplate on the door, it might bump into the edge of

the strike plate's slot and have a hard time getting into the hole. It will even be harder for it to get out of the hole, and that's why the strike plate should be aligned. Find its right, original position before tightening the screws. It's better to use long screws so that you won't have similar problems in the future.

\* Check the key. If there are broken edges, the lock might get jammed. If you find any damaged grooves, ridges or edges, get a new key replacement.

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