



## Lock repair tips

1

### Lubricate jammed locks

Door locks get jammed because they're dirty or frozen. The best way to deal with dirty locks is to remove the mechanism and have every part cleaned before lubricating them. If the lock is frozen, heat up the key before inserting it in the lock. Spray some lubricant, too.

2

### Learn how to remove broken keys

When the key is broken and stuck in the door lock, check whether it is already turned or not. If it is turned, you must turn it back to its original position. Use tweezers! If the key isn't turned, gently pull the broken piece out of the lock using the tweezers again.

3

### How to avoid keys from getting stuck

Keys get stuck in locks when they're damaged or when the lock is filthy. You avoid such problems by cleaning all lock parts and spraying lubricants in the keyhole. Our technicians say that you must never use keys when they're bent because they get easily stuck.

4

### What to do when the door doesn't lock

If the door doesn't lock, check the strike plate but also the bolt at the edge of the door. The bolt must come all the way out and be inserted into the strike hole well. If they are not aligned, the door won't lock.

5

### Align the strike plate

The strike plate will get loose if its screws are not tightened. If the strike is loose, the door won't lock. Turn the key to see if the bolt meets the strike's slot while the door is open. If not, reposition the strike plate and tighten it.

6

How to deal with frozen locks

Door locks get frozen when the temperatures are low. In this case, use a lighter to heat up your key before inserting it in the lock and make gentle movements to avoid breaking it. Jiggle the key. If it doesn't turn, our specialists recommend lubricating the key.

7

How to fix the lock that doesn't latch

The latch and bolt of door locks should go in the strike plate hole. If they fail to do so, check that the holes are big enough, the lock cylinder isn't loose and the strike plate is aligned. If not, the lock must be repaired.

8

What to do when the lock is stuck

The last thing you want to do when the door doesn't open because the lock is stuck is to put any force on the key. This might cause it to break. Just spray lubricants on the key and in the keyhole and try again.

9

How to fix the stuck ignition key

If your car key gets stuck in the ignition, jiggle it softly. If it doesn't move, spray lubricants. Use your left hand to slightly turn the steering wheel. Keep the car in the neutral position. Avoid using force or the ignition car key might break.

10

How to deal with keys that won't fit in the lock

There's a reason why keys don't fit in locks. Check that this is the right key and it's not bent. If edges or grooves are damaged, you might end up inserting the key but it might not turn which could ruin the lock.

11

How to fix the cylinder

The cylinder is one of the most important parts of your locks. Most parts of the mechanism are in the cylinder. When it gets loose, you won't be able to lock. Remove the faceplate. You will see the setscrews of the cylinder. Tighten them to try and fix the problem.

12

How to repair deadbolt problems

The most common problem with deadbolt locks is related to the bolt. When the cylinder is loose, the bolt doesn't go out all the way. In this case, tighten the cylinder. In some cases, the strike plate needs tightening to get aligned with the bolt.

Locksmith San Marino

Phone: 626-639-0357

<http://www.locksmithsanmarino.com>