

Glossary: Types of Doorknobs and Door Locks



DEADBOLTS

Deadbolt locks use a key cylinder on the outside and a thumb-turn (rosary) on the inside to open or close the lock. There are also *double-cylinder* deadbolt locks which use a key cylinder on the inside and the outside of the door. With this type of lock, the key would be needed for both the inside and outside of the door.

Considerations:

- Deadbolt locks could pose a significant problem in a fire or other emergency, such as when a person or staff have to locate keys. This may impact ability to evacuate swiftly.
- If a person has difficulty with fine motor-skills, they may not be able to manually turn a key or the thumb-turn to securely lock or unlock the deadbolt.
- Installation of deadbolt locks require modifications to doors rather than a replacement of a knob or lever handle.
- While many locks can be adjusted to fit one specific key (master key), replacement keys are not free and can be costly.



KNOB LOCKS

Knob locks are frequently installed in residential homes on exterior doors in addition to deadbolts and are sometimes used as the primary source of security for doors. The lock cylinder is in the knob itself and not the door.

Considerations:

- Knobs themselves can be difficult to use for people who have limited motor function.

- This type of lock requires the use of a key which can be misplaced or lost. Locks can be adjusted to fit one specific key (master key) but replacement can be expensive.
- In an emergency situation, this lock can be easily broken to gain access to a room. This will allow emergency professionals or staff access if the person is non-responsive in the room.
- They can be easily replaced and require no door modifications.
- When the engaged side is active, the outside knob can only be disengaged with a key or with a door pin. The locking side of the door is released once the occupant simply turns the knob or lever. Once engaged, the handle or lever on the opposing side will not engage.



LEVER HANDLE LOCKS

Similar functionality to that of Knob Locks but with a more ideal handle for those with limited fine motor skills.

Considerations:

- This type of lock uses a key, which could be misplaced or lost. Locks can be adjusted to fit one specific key (master key), but replacement keys can be expensive.
- In an emergency situation, this lock can be easily broken to gain access to a room. This will allow emergency professionals or staff access if the person is non-responsive in the room. These types of locks can be easily replaced and require no door modifications.
- When the engaged side is active, the outside knob can only disengage the mechanism either with a key or with a door pin. The locking side of the door is usually released once the occupant simply turns the knob or lever. Once engaged, the handle or lever on the opposing side will not engage.



PUSH PIN/PUSH BUTTON LOCKS

These locks work with right and left swing doors. The knob locks on the interior of the door. The knob automatically unlocks from the interior when the doorknob is rotated.

Considerations:

- Push pin locks do not afford consistent privacy for a bedroom. These may be used for a bathroom, where in emergency situations staff may need to enter to assist the person.
- Push pin locks can be disengaged by anyone and do not require the use of a key.
- Push pin knobs come with a designated key pin, however several common household items can be used to disengage the lock from the exterior.
- In an emergency situation, the lock can be disengaged via use of designated key pin, or universal key pins, or use of household items to gain access to the room.



ELECTRIC KEYLESS ENTRY LOCKS

These types of locks come in a variety of knobs and levers, however the main benefit is that it can be opened both with a key or with a specific code.

Considerations:

- Electric Keyless Entry Locks can be costly. Aside from the cost, they also need to be maintained to ensure that they remain functional and powered.
- The various locks can all be cued into one master key and people can have their own separate code to gain access.
- This is a *double-function lock*, which means that there are locking mechanisms on both sides of the knob. This can allow for locking on the inside as well as the outside.
- Many of these models may require further door modification to be installed correctly.

**CARD-BASED ENTRY SYSTEM OR PROXIMITY CARD LOCK SYSTEMS**

These locks use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID technology) to communicate with security card reader systems. This type of card key door lock requires no physical contact between the card and the reader. Instead, the card just needs to be placed near the reader to transmit data.

Considerations:

- Systems like this can be expensive and replacement cards can be costly.
- Fully functional card systems have to be installed by professionals and are often maintained by private businesses.
- Many cards can be programmed with different levels of access rights for added security.
- The locking system is organized by a centralized computer system. This could be a concern in an emergency situation such as during power outages.