



1

Never use too much torque with a replacement key.

You should slip the key gently inside the keyway and turn it into the respective direction. If you feel any resistance, you should stop and try again. It may take a bit of time for the key to fit perfectly. If the key still does not work, it may have to be re-cut.

2

Look into the door alignment in case of a stuck deadbolt.

It is common for a deadbolt to get stuck when the door is misaligned. You need to inspect the door to see if there is any gap between it and the jamb. If this is the case, the hinges have to be readjusted so that the door becomes straight.

3

Lubricate a lock which is hard to open.

You need to use a specially designed lubricant which is readily available in the market. You need to insert the nozzle inside the keyway and squeeze. Dirt and grime accumulated inside the lock will come out. You need to use the spray until the liquid which comes out is perfectly clear.

4

Troubleshoot a frozen lock with a de-icing product.

You need to apply the product to the inside of the lock. If you do not have such a product at hand, you should use a hair dryer or a heat gun to warm the lock and melt the ice. You must never press a hot metal object against the lock or use hot water.

5

Check the bolts of a shaking lockset.

If the lockset is moving while you turn the key and move the door handle, then one or more bolts are loose. You need to take a closer look at all bolts and tighten the ones which are causing the problem. If any bolts are broken, they must be replaced without delay.

6

Remove rust with the use of a solvent only.

It is not common for locks to rust, but locksets and door knobs are more vulnerable to this. If you notice this problem, you must remove the rust with solvent which is safe and effective. You must not use steel wool as it may cause scratches which can interfere with operation.

7

Attempt to remove a stuck key with lubricant.

You need to use lubricant which comes with a thin nozzle. You need to insert the nozzle into the key hole from all possible sides to lubricate as much surface area as possible. Then you need to jiggle the key a bit and try to pull it out gently. If this does not work, repair will be required.

8

Check the weather stripping if you have to push the door to latch it.

Difficulties with latching typically occur when the weather stripping prevents the door from closing fully. You have to check all strips and readjust ones which have gotten detached or have changed their original position. If necessary, you should replace the weather stripping.

9

Remove gunk stuck on and inside the lock with alcohol.

Dip a cotton swab in the alcohol and rub the lock. Repeat this until the swab remains perfectly clean. Spray alcohol inside the key hole as well. It should loosen up the gunk. Then slide the key in and out to remove the gunk from the inside of the lock.

10

Inspect door keys on a regular basis.

You have to check for scratches, marks, chips and dents. Pay special attention to the neck connecting the blade and the bow. Look for nicks which may increase the risk of breaking. If you notice any serious damage, immediate repair or replacement will be necessary. Dirt can be removed with alcohol.

11

Check the strike on the jamb if the lock is difficult to turn.

You have to ensure that the deadbolt is perfectly well aligned with the strike. If this is not the case, you have to check the bolts that hold the strike component on the jamb. If they are loose, they have to be tightened. If the strike component is damaged, it must be repaired.

12

Never heat a key to insert in a frozen lock.

Heat may cause damage to the key and make it more prone to breaking. This is especially the case when the heat source is flame and the key is placed over it. A damaged key can break inside the lock and in this case both may have to be replaced.

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