



How to Maintain Car Locks and Keys

You use car locks and keys every day, but you hardly pay attention to them until they fail. Did you know that with a little bit of maintenance provided twice a year, you can keep these devices in perfect working condition and enjoy a high level of security? Find out how to do things right and get all the benefits.

Clean the locks thoroughly and safely - Use compressed air to get any lint fibers and debris out of the keyway. Watch out for rust on the visible side of the door locks and the ignition. If you notice this kind of problem, you need to use rust remover to deal with it. Generally, you can apply any cleaning product which is safe for metal for the exterior sections of locksets. Use a small amount of it on soft cloth and rub the lock gently while making sure that no liquid will go inside the keyway.

Inspect the transponder key for damage - Check the casing for cracks and the blade for bending. If you place the blade next to a straight edge, the two must be perfectly parallel. If they are not, you should get the key fixed or replaced. Getting a new key is necessary when the existing one has dull peaks and tip. As you certainly know, dullness is the most obvious sign of wearing.

Clean the key properly - If the key is in good shape, you can clean the blade with a bit of lemon juice and the plastic casing with alcohol. Just add a few drops of the liquid on soft lint-free cloth and rub the respective surface gently. There is no need for rinsing.

Lubricate car locksets to prevent stickiness and freezing - You will need graphite powder lubricant especially formulated for locking devices. Once both the lock and key are perfectly clean, squeeze or spray a bit of the lubricant inside the keyway. It's fine if some of it comes out. Just wipe any extra lubricant gently. Insert the key and turn it inside the lock two or three times to ensure that the lubricant is properly spread. This technique works perfectly for the ignition as well as for all kinds of door locksets.

Have the lock fixed when needed - If you have done a good job with the maintenance, but the lock is sticky or you have a hard time inserting the key, you should get the problem solved as soon as possible. Otherwise, you can end up locked out of your car or break the key inside the ignition. You can readily avoid these and other serious situations by taking action on time. It is as simple as that.

The following manual was written by a Locksmith Chula Vista professional.

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