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November / December 2020

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ISSN 2345-7066



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Is Your Key Safe? A Definitive Guide to Key Protection

By Urs Spaeni, VP Strategic Innovation, dormakaba Switzerland
Adapted from the official dormakaba blog. Photos courtesy of dormakaba.

The first known keys in history were wooden sticks used some 6,000 years ago in Ancient Egypt and Babylon. Today, following the astonishing technological developments and digitization, the rudimentary idea of the "key" has since evolved to encompass many definitions. Devices such as a card, a smartphone, and even fingerprints, voice, or eyes can authorize users to access an area.

Despite the growing market of digital or frictionless access methods, mechanical keys and locks are still the most popular method to secure a room or a facility thanks to their durability and affordability. As mechanical systems are safe from digital hacking attacks, the mechanical key is often viewed as a traditional, yet secure and reliable option compared to its new-age digital counterparts.



dormakaba's customisable mechanical key solutions

With more than 150 years of experience prioritizing safety and security in its innovations, dormakaba has developed ways of ensuring that your mechanical key system remains trusted and true. This article explores some of the methods that dormakaba has held dear while carefully manufacturing each key to maximise your safety and security.

Key Protection Method #1: Make It Complex

Not all mechanical locks are created equal. Subpar materials and unsophisticated key profiles can be factors for easy targets for lock manipulation.

When a fragile lock is used, criminals can follow classic lock manipulation methods like lock picking, key bumping, snapping, or drilling to gain unlawful

access. Thus, to galvanize a mechanical lock's security, users must ensure their locks are as complex and high-quality as possible.

Ideally, mechanical keys should be manufactured with a unique key profile made with "anti-snap" material, and be aligned with the relevant industry conducts such as the European Security Standards.



Increased security through innovations in cylinder lock design.

The high security of dormakaba's mechanical key systems is based on the sophisticated technology inside the cylinder lock. dormakaba's PENTA cylinder locks are one of the most secure on the market and against the most common opening methods. In particular, the bumping method - which can open a common cylinder lock with a specially prepared key and a hammer with leaving any traces of force - is no concern for the owner of a dormakaba PENTA cylinder lock.



dormakaba PENTA multi-row reversible key double cylinder lock design offers increased security over a traditional serrated key cylinder.

Key Protection Method #2: Copy-Proofing the Mechanical Key

Even when users acquire a robust mechanical lock system that will be resilient against common lock manipulation methods, they might still face the risk of unauthorized copies. The most straightforward way to mitigate this risk is to source keys from a reliable

business partner that can offer patent or brand protection.



dormakaba PENTA is protected by European Patents EP1185755 and EP2890856B1. This means only dormakaba produces the cylinder locks and additional and/or duplicate keys only at the user's request.

Patent-protected keys ensure that only authorized persons can order copies of keys and cylinder copies. Likewise, brand-protection allows keys to have a recognizable and uncopyable logo, helping system owners determine if a key is an original or an unauthorized copy. Unlike a patent, which typically expires in 10 years, brand protection last forever.

The Herculean effort required, coupled with the legislation protecting the copying of patent or brand-protected keys, acts as a massive active deterrent to potential invaders.

Key Protection Method #3: Taking Personal Responsibility



dormakaba keys and locks are created with your safety and security in mind.

The gentle curves juxtaposed with strict ridges and edges on the mechanical key remains a comforting and reliable shape to hold in the palm of the hand for many. However trusted your key may be, it takes a nosedive into a nightmare the moment it falls into malicious hands. It is now the owner's turn to protect the key. Keeping the lock and key system safe, will in turn keep you safe.



Antimicrobial Door Sealing Solutions



The threat of bacterial infection exists in all environments, but particularly in 'high traffic' commercial buildings. Dwelling on common surfaces, including doors, door hardware and door seals, bacteria can be easily spread by simple human contact.

To assist in suppressing the growth & spread of bacteria, Kilargo has incorporated antimicrobial technology into the manufacture of its range of silicone door seals. Our innovative range of antimicrobial silicone gaskets provide outstanding performance with unbeatable hygiene, eliminating up to 99.99% of bacteria.

Manufactured with in-built SteriTouch® protection, they are designed for 'clean room' environments and buildings that demand superior infection control, including:

- hospitals, medical centres and nursing homes
- laboratories and testing facilities
- childcare centres and schools
- food-handling areas.

Like all Kilargo products, our SteriTouch® range is professionally manufactured to exacting standards – providing exceptional solutions for containing sound, limiting the spread of smoke, improving energy efficiency and preventing weather infiltration. With incredible bacteria resistance, they're the perfect choice for the most hygienic buildings.

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Indonesia	+62 21 2930 3762
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