

Upgrade to Smart Locks

When buying your home, it's easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of making the new property your own. One area many homeowners forget about is changing the current door locks.

Experts at the real-estate organization Trulia strongly urge buyers to make this a priority after closing. You never know how many others have keys to your property. It's a scary thought.

Consider upgrading to a smart lock to give your property a stronger sense of security.

According to livesafely.org, in some areas over 50 percent of home burglaries are caused by a technique known as lock bumping. This technique is accomplished by using a "bump key" which is a tool used by locksmiths to gain access to most traditional locks. With the rise of 3D printing and e-commerce websites, these tools are now widely available and can easily end up in the wrong hands.

Protect your family and belongings by enlisting the help of a locksmith to ensure new locks are installed properly and safely. Modern technology has advanced traditional door security with incredible options that make it more difficult for wrongdoers to make their way inside.

If you're in the process of purchasing a new home or



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simply looking for a way to increase security, consider the incredible innovations in smart locks, as recommended by the organization Safe Home.

KEYPAD AND COMBINATION LOCKS

A way to avoid being the victim of a "bump key" break-in is to do away with a keyhole entirely. Upgrading to a keypad entry system gives a homeowner the option to use a

secure code before the door will open.

Older models of this technology used physical buttons, but recent systems have updated to digital touchpads. Not only will you be providing more security to your home, but you can add a modern touch with this attractive style of lock.

Many of these keypads include an additional deadbolt and the ability to connect it with other smart equipment in

your home. Checking to ensure the locks are engaged while you're away from home offers incredible peace of mind.

KEYLESS AND WIRELESS SMART LOCKS

The days of hiding a spare key for loved ones to check on your property while you are away are gone. With a WiFi-enabled smart lock, the doors can be unlocked remotely. While many manufacturers are offering this system, the most

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Shop Smart

Consumer Reports named the August Smart Lock AUG-HK as its Best Smart Lock for 2018. The "retrofit" smart lock works with an existing deadbolt. Consumer Reports also tested non-smart locks and recommends pairing the August model with a Kwikset 980. Read the entire results of Consumer Reports' testing, including these models and others, at <https://bit.ly/2fEcLBH>.

efficient option is to purchase it through a home security service, as it will be supported with a secure app. Many of these locks use Bluetooth to sense you are nearby and will automatically unlock. This great convenience comes in handy for busy parents who rarely have an extra hand to spare.

KEY FOB LOCKS

Much like new vehicles, these locks only disengage if it senses a dedicated key fob when touched. An expert can set up each door of your home to react to the same fob, making it simple for you to get in and effective at keeping others out.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Rehabilitation mortgage: A mortgage loan made to cover the costs of repairing, improving, and sometimes acquiring an existing property.

SOURCE: Federal Trade Commission

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