

# It's Not Just About Cutting Keys : Part One

## A Guide to the Many Ways in which a Locksmith Can Help You

Every day locksmiths cut many keys of many different types, but there is a plethora of other ways in which locksmiths can help you, some of which you may never have thought of.

In this new series we give you plenty of useful information about what a trained locksmith can do to help you out of difficult situations and prevent you getting into those difficulties in the first place!

### This issue starts with a brief overview of the kind of varied work locksmiths do.

**Security check:** Most locksmiths will provide a free, no obligation, review of your existing locks and other security at your home, business premises, etc. Your locksmith will subsequently advise you on where and how security can be improved and they should be recommending solutions that make your life easier, not harder.

**Key cutting:** Keys can be copied from an original key (with some exceptions), they can be cut from a code or from the lock itself. Most mobile locksmiths will have a key cutting machine in their van so that they can cut keys wherever they are working.



**Door security:** While the deadbolt is king for front and back door security, there are many other types of doors that may need securing such as patio doors and internal doors. Your locksmith will have solutions for all of these. In addition he can supply and fit door guards and anti-jimmy bars to thwart the efforts of a would-be burglar who has a crow bar hidden in his jacket.

**Window security:** Window handles, deadlocks, grills and safety stays (which restrict how wide you can open the window) can all be supplied and fitted by your locksmith.

**Padlocks:** There are so many different padlocks on the market for an infinite number of applications, but a trusted locksmith will supply you with the correct padlock for your requirements and you can be assured of its quality.

**Safes:** Again, many types, but your locksmith can supply & fit a quality safe for you. They can also gain access to safes, change combinations & carry out service checks.

But here's something you should know now: **LOCKS CAN BE REKEYED.**

Lost or stolen keys do not necessarily mean that your locks have to be replaced.

Often your locksmith will be able to rekey your locks to new keys so that your old keys can no longer be used. This is a great money and time saver.

**Remember this: If it opens, your locksmith can put a lock on it!**



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## Crime fighting

## NZ Police

# Don't Leave Your Home Open to Burglars

It's been a hot summer, but that's no excuse to leave your home vulnerable to burglary. All throughout Counties Manukau District, Police are responding to reports of burglary where the offenders have gained entry to the home through insecure doors or windows which have been left open to allow the breeze in.

A number of burglaries have taken place while the occupants have been in the home; these are opportunist thieves who take a quick chance to sneak in and sneak out while a homeowner is distracted in another part of the house or outside. Small electronic items, car keys, cash and jewellery are targeted in these cases, and sometimes the missing items might not be noticed for hours or even days after they were taken.

There are a number of things you can do to prevent your home from becoming a target and we want your help to reduce the number of burglaries that take place in our area.

### Be Aware

If you're outside gardening, barbequing, washing the car or doing anything else, make sure you can either still see all open doors and windows, or keep them locked while you're distracted.

### Night Time Security

At night it's still important to make sure no intruders can enter your home. While it might be hot and sticky, we don't recommend keeping windows or doors open or unlocked to let the breeze in. You can install security stays on windows which will allow the air to get through but won't allow the window to open fully.



### Outdoor Security

Tools and ladders are valuable and are items that burglars target. If you're doing any work outside, make sure you put away all tools and ladders before you leave the property – ladders can be used to climb to windows and tools like hammers and screwdrivers can be used to gain entry. Additionally make sure that sheds and garages are locked at all times.

Most importantly, get to know your neighbours and be aware of normal activity in your area. If you notice something out of the ordinary, it's important that you call us immediately and let us know what's going on. Remember that burglars may do their best to fit in with their surroundings and pretend that they are in the area for a legitimate reason. If you're suspicious about someone's activity, call 111 straight away and we can respond and make sure they don't get the opportunity to break into a home or steal a car.

We have had some great examples of neighbours questioning suspicious people and even photographing suspicious cars and activity in their area. Safer communities together! To report any kind of suspicious activity you can also call Counties Manukau Police on 09 261 1300 or to provide information anonymously contact the organisation Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Superintendent John Tims**  
Counties Manukau District Commander

