

Bump Key Perspective from Schlage®

Long used by certified locksmiths and other authorized professionals, bump keys – also known as bypass keys – are not ordinary, everyday items, but rather professional industry tools like pickguns and lock picks, which have been used for decades by locksmiths to help individuals rightly access their homes and personal belongings.

Regrettably, the bump key and related bypass technique are now being promoted broadly via the Internet and hacker organizations, increasing awareness that stretches well beyond the community of licensed locksmith professionals and creating the possibility that professional locksmith tools could be used for illegal and inappropriate purposes.

Schlage views this broad promotion as an industry-wide issue and one not related to lock performance or quality. Schlage also believes an industry-wide effort to regulate and limit access to bump keys will play a significant role in helping to reduce the chances that bump keys are used for anything other than legitimate purposes. Schlage is working with other members of the lock industry to address this issue, including the Associated Locksmiths of America (www.aloa.org).

Schlage offers a broad range of lock options so consumers can select products to create security levels specific to their unique needs. As part of its broad portfolio, Schlage has the Primus lock cylinder line, which specifically is designed to be resistant to the techniques associated with bypass and bump keys. The Primus cylinder uses a patented system comprised of finger pins and a side bar along with unique patented keys with side bit milling. Schlage products with Primus cylinders are available through authorized locksmiths and dealers nationwide. Consumers concerned about whether their locks or security of their premises should consult a professional locksmith, such as an ALOA-certified locksmith.

Consumers also need to remember that they should employ a systematic approach consisting of different layers of deterrence and protection when securing their property. A lock is just one layer. Consumers should incorporate multiple security aspects to make their home or business unattractive to would-be thieves and burglars. Some simple steps include making sure entrances and property perimeters are adequately lit; using motion sensors linked to outdoor lighting; installing dead-bolts with high-security cylinders on doors and having a complete home security system. Consumers also should consider partnering with neighbors to keep an eye on each others' properties via neighborhood watch efforts.