



DO YOU NEED TO UPGRADE THE EURO-LOCK CYLINDERS ON YOUR DOORS?

The Problem

Increasingly uPVC door locks are being forced by burglars to gain entry. uPVC doors (including French doors and patio doors) are usually fitted with **Euro-Lock cylinders** as standard. There is an inherent weakness in older or cheaper cylinders that is being exploited by burglars. After fracturing the outer lock cover (the handle), the cylinder can be simply snapped and removed with a wrench leaving the door open to the burglar. Burglars seeking to break open any door use various tools and it is therefore essential to install high resistance locks.

Improving Your Lock Security

Don't be complacent. Whether or not you have experienced a burglary or attempted burglary you are advised to check that your locks conform to the latest British Standard and if they do not, it is recommended that you fit replacement cylinders which conform to: BS: TS007:2012-Three Star certification. These locks carry the BS Kite mark.

Fitting New Locks

Here are four options:

1. Fit them yourself if you are competent at DIY by following the guidelines below.
2. A competent friend or neighbour may be able to fit them for you.
3. Get advice and an estimate from an accredited Master Locksmith if locally available.
4. Get an estimate from a reputable local uPVC door and window installer. They fit Eurolocks all the time so will be experienced in this work.

But however you get the work done make sure you insist on locks that conform to the highest standard which is BS: TS007:2012-Three Star certification.

Guidance on Replacing the Locks Yourself

If you intend to fit replacement Eurolocks yourself we recommend purchasing them from a supplier registered with the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA). To find an accredited supplier go to the MLA website: <http://www.locksmiths.co.uk/> Once you have found an accredited supplier visit their website and search for a lock which meets the British Standard BS: TS007:2012 3 Star. If you need further help there will be a phone number on there so you can get expert advice and also order your locks. The locks come in several sizes and colours, usually with three keys as standard but you can normally obtain extra keys at a reduced price at the time of ordering the locks. If you need extra keys later they cost a little more. You can only obtain extra or replacement keys from accredited suppliers. The supplier's website usually gives clear instructions on how to measure your replacement locks. You are strongly advised to look at these instructions before ordering.

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

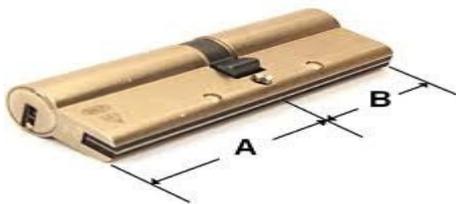
For each lock there are several different sizes of cylinder in various finishes. The sizes differ because of the varying thickness of uPVC doors and the location of the operating cam, which may be either central or off-set.

Before removing the existing cylinder check if it fits flush to the door handle plate on each side where the key enters. Sometimes the original fitter may have fitted a cylinder that is too long and it can protrude beyond the handle plate. This is shoddy workmanship and it makes the lock more vulnerable to attack, so before removing the old cylinder, measure any protruding amount.

To take out the cylinder, remove the single screw on the door edge (sometimes it's a recessed Allen screw), insert your usual key from the inside of the door and wiggle the cam into position so that the cylinder can be pushed or gently tapped out. It is then possible to take accurate measurements (remembering to take off any protrusion that was noticed). Make sure you measure the position of the screw hole from each end of the cylinder as sometimes it may not be in the centre. Or if possible you can take the cylinders to a supplier to be matched to the replacements. To fit a new cylinder, reverse the above procedure ensuring alignment of the cylinder screw hole with the hole on the door edge then secure with the longer screw provided. **However** make sure that the new cylinder fits flush and does not protrude beyond the door handles.

If you have previously fitted Cisa Astral S locks these were once considered one of the best locks in their own right, but with advances in lock technology they now need new high security handles fitted to raise their rating from one star to three stars. You can obtain these handles from the same suppliers mentioned above.

How to correctly measure your cylinders



Measure from the CENTRE of the cylinder fixing screw to both ends of your cylinder. If either end protrudes 5mm or more from the handle then reduce this size as the cylinders should fit as flush to the handle as possible. When measured correctly, the internal & external sizes added together should result in the total overall length e.g. 35mm + 45mm = 80mm total overall length.

(Please do not assume that all your locks are the same size as this is seldom the case!)

Getting Help With Fitting

If you have a friend or neighbour who is a handyman they may be willing to help. Otherwise you should get quotes for the supply and fitting of new locks from an MLA registered locksmith or from reputable local firms who fit uPVC doors and windows. Make sure however that you ask them to fit locks of the latest British Standard BS: TS007:2012- Three Star. Also make sure you get the correct sizes and colour of locks.

If you have any further questions please get in touch with us by emailing us at: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk