

## BASIC HANDLE & LOCK MAINTENANCE

It's really simple to keep your door handles and locks in great working order, and if you begin to include some easy practices into your broader cleaning regime, your handles and locks will work well for the lifespan of your house. It's as simple as keeping them clean.

### CLEANING

Locks and door handles have a number of small, rotating parts working in very close proximity with one another. These parts requires cleaning to preserve their longevity.

The locks and cylinders should be cleaned monthly with a moist cloth. At no point should any form of cleaning agents be used.

The internal workings of the cylinder should be lightly sprayed with a silicone lubricant (or similar) every 12 weeks. A suitable, widely available product is GT85. Dry graphite maintenance powder is a suitable alternative. Do not use WD-40 or oil based lubricants as these may attract debris.

It's very easy to do. If you are using GT85, spray it into your euro profile cylinder whilst inserting your key in and out several times. Doing so will maintain your guarantee and keep your lock operating smoothly. If you are using dry graphite maintenance powder, follow the instructions provided. Wipe away any excess oil or graphite, and then move onto the next door.

### DO NOT:

Wipe over with a strong cleaning detergent or any cloths which may scratch the surface of the cylinder.

### MAINTAINING YOUR LOCKS & HANDLES

If your lockset or door furniture is old then it might need to be dismantled every so often for thorough maintenance.

Each lockset and handle is a little different, but you should be able to take them apart by unscrewing the knob on one side of the door then pulling them away from the shaft. Once you have broken your door hardware down into its constituent parts, thoroughly clean each piece and lubricate them individually, then carefully put them back together. Replace any parts which look substantially damaged or worn, and inspect the entire mechanism for rust.

Outdoor locksets and handles require more aggressive maintenance. They should be fully galvanized to protect them from the rain, and should be sheltered as much as possible from very cold weather. Constant freezing and thawing, freezing and thawing will accelerate the process of deterioration, so keep water out of your locks by covering them, perhaps with a makeshift piece of inner tube nailed over the top to channel water away.

Remember that the best cure for door hardware issues is prevention; if you can maintain your locks effectively then the likelihood of serious problems arising is greatly diminished.

 Wipe highlighted area

 Lubricate highlighted area with silicon based oil or graphite

