

## Lock Bumping

FYI... Most of you may already be aware of this, but just in case your not....

It seems the criminal mind is always scheming and finding new ways to get to us and our belongings. They now have an ingenious way of breaking into our homes and small businesses. It is called "Lock Bumping" and it is done with a set of specially cut key blanks that are easily obtainable from the Internet.



Lock bumping is a lock picking technique for opening a pin tumbler lock, the type of lock that most of us have on our homes. This method of entry does not leave signs of forcible entry and most likely will not be covered by your insurance.

The technique involves inserting the bump key into the lock and tapping the key one or more times with a hammer, screwdriver handle, rock or similar device, while applying a slight turning force to the key. The skill level required to bump a lock is almost nil compared to other lock picking techniques so bumping is an easy way to open locks by just about anyone.



Locks having security pins (spool or mushroom pins, etc.) generally make bumping somewhat more difficult, but not impossible. Electronic locks, magnetic locks, and locks using rotating disks are not vulnerable to this attack. Also, restricted or registered keys are much safer from bumping because the key blanks for them can only be obtained from locksmiths' associations.

## Lock Bumping Solution & Tips

From Ginny Dutson - West Plaza Neighborhood Association

The Bump Guard locks available from Kwikset offer affordable (\$21.95 at Home Depot) protection from the widely reported incidents of "lock bumping", which allows an intruder to bypass normal locksets by means of a specially-cut key (readily available and inexpensive on the internet) and a light rapping or tapping of this key while turning it in the lock cylinder. Lock bumping results in unlocking the door just as if the intruder had a key, with no evidence left behind of unauthorized entry. Aside from offering protection against lock bumping, Kwikset represents that their Bump Guard locks are also more resistant to being picked and are offered in a wide variety of styles and finishes.



A side benefit of the Bump Guard locks is that they employ Kwikset's patented Smartkey technology, which eliminates the need for a locksmith to do any re-keying that may be necessary. Thus, if you already have a Kwikset style key you know is secure you can re-key the Bump Guard locks to this existing key; or, if your keys are stolen and you suspect the culprit also has your address you can re-key them promptly and easily.

The only tool required to re-key the lock is included (don't lose it) with the new lockset; the process requires no disassembly and is surprisingly easy and fast (about 15 seconds!). It should be noted that the other key must properly fit a Kwikset keyway and there are three or four common manufacturers that use this keyway. However, the keys for Schlage locks (another popular brand that is less regularly seen in the residential market) will not fit Kwikset keyways.

Installation of the Bump Guard lock is very straightforward so long as you are replacing a standard lockset or deadbolt (it does not matter if you are replacing another brand of lock, the standards for installation should be the same unless you have high-end designer locksets). Simply remove the old hardware, which for the lockset consists of both doorknobs and the latch mechanism, and install the new hardware. You can re-key the new lock either before or after the installation, although we found it a bit easier to do before the installation. We offer the general caution of paying careful attention when you remove the old lock, as there are instances where there may be a shim or other adaptive mechanism that may be required to align the new lockset properly. Further, if for some reason the new lock cannot be installed, you would want to be able to reinstall the old one with minimal fuss.