

Common solutions for all building types

While every building should be assessed for its unique security needs and requirements, there are some door hardware and security solutions that are common to many types of buildings, regardless of the type of structure.

1 Access control

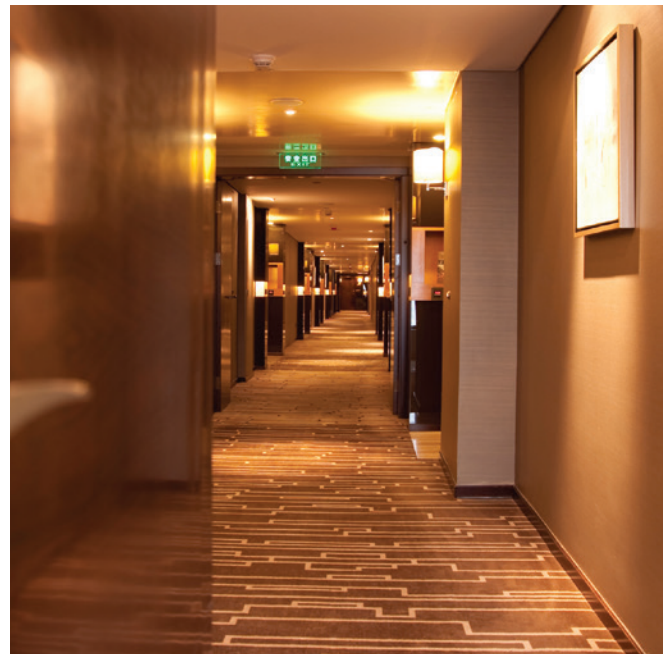
Access control is the most critical aspect of building safety. Your strategy determines how a facility manages credentials to control the access and egress of staff and visitors on a daily basis. An operational description can help you choose between two forms of access control:

1. **Mechanical access control** via a patented key system that restricts duplication of keys
2. **Electronic access control** via electronic locks, readers, access control software system, etc.

“I advise clients to think through—and even write out—how they want each door to operate,” says Bill Lawliss, Director of Architectural Services at Allegion. “This allows us to choose the best solution, instead of starting with a product and making it fit.”

The type and extent of access control, Lawliss says, generally depends on three factors: desired levels of security, convenience and budget. While both mechanical and electronic solutions protect sensitive areas and restrict access, electronic solutions offer more advanced functionality:

- Electronic solutions can be configured to restrict access to any user (employee, student, tenant, etc.) based on day, date or time.
- They also allow you to add or delete credentials instantly, eliminating the need to rekey a lock for a lost key or a staff departure.
- They provide the foundation for a building-wide lockdown platform.



2 Lockdown capabilities

Every facility—from retail and commercial spaces to corporate offices, healthcare facilities and more—should also include lockdown capabilities in its security plan.

“The ability to secure a facility quickly and easily cannot be overstated,” Lawliss says, “and should never be an afterthought.”

Most buildings use a unique combination of people, process and product to achieve lockdown. There are three main approaches:



Centralized lockdown:

- Centralized lockdown is initiated by an authorized individual
- Simultaneous lockdown across a building or campus occurs when a combination of access control software and hardware are in place



Remote local lockdown:

- Standalone electronic solution provides instant local lockdown
- Lockdown is activated by a remote fob within proximity of a door
- Requires individual with an authorized fob to put door in lockdown mode



Manual lockdown:

- Keys manually lock down a room or space
- Lockdown speed depends on how fast an individual gets to the door and locks it
- Requires the highest level of staff accountability

3 Minimized access via exterior doors

Most buildings have too many exterior access points. Building owners should minimize the number of entrance points for better safety.

“Every door doesn’t need an outside cylinder and/or trim,” Lawliss explains. “By limiting the number of doors with outside cylinder and trim, you can better manage the number of access points into a building.”

Lawliss says architects, as the experts in a building’s traffic flow, can determine which openings can be restricted from the exterior, and which ones are best for funneling traffic into the building.

Some security solutions, like the ones above, can be applied to any type of building. Others are more application-specific. At Allegion, we can help you determine how to apply both types to your building and openings.

For specification assistance, to schedule an AIA/CES lunch-n-learn, or to learn more about Allegion and our products, call 877-929-4350 or [contact an Allegion spec writer.](#)

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