

Existing buildings and security

Access control options for existing or historic buildings

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How can you increase your security without compromising building design or infrastructure?

Advancements in electronic access control systems provide possible solutions for upgrading hardware in existing and even historic buildings.

The development of wireless technology has made it possible to have a fully integrated system that provides optimal security without compromising the design or infrastructure of your existing building. Because there is no wiring needed, wireless locks can be installed just about anywhere without having to cut into the building's structure. Wireless installations take less time, are less disruptive of productivity and are just as secure, reliable and easy-to-use as a traditional hardwired system - and provide the same functionality

Wireless electronic locks also integrate the components usually located on the wall or around the frame of the door right into the lock. This not only reduces the number of items that need to be installed, but also the cost of the hardware itself. This yields a smarter solution and more value for the investment.

These wireless solutions are usually part of a networked access control system and can be managed from a central computer with software that allows you add/remove cardholders and set access privileges and schedules according to your unique needs. It also monitors who has accessed each opening and when they did it.

If you're looking to increase the security in your building, but don't have the budget or need for a networked system, consider offline or stand-alone systems. Again, you won't need to run cables throughout the building, or cut through the walls during installation, but these devices must be programmed individually at the door, either manually on the keypad, or with a handheld device that downloads information to each lock. Offline locks track usage by providing an audit trail – letting you see all the activity at that opening including whose credential accessed the door at what time.

Both networked wireless and offline access control systems allow you to choose the credential you would like to use in your building. Options include everything from PIN codes or magnetic stripe cards to proximity and smart card credentials. The smarter the credential you choose, the more secure your building will be.

It is important to consider all the components of each opening, including how they work together, and how they can be integrated into the overall building network. This should include the mechanical hardware, offline and networked access control devices, software systems, video and the integration of all technologies. An integrated system ties together all of your security and safety systems, making the easier to manage.

As you can see, there are options open to those who want to include access control in the security strategy for their existing or historic building, but thought it wasn't possible without experiencing a lot of downtime. A security consultant or integrator can help you determine which components you need, whether you're considering electronic access control for the first time, expanding your system or looking for a fully integrated wireless electronic security solution.

Learn more about electronic locks

For more information about combating security risks with electronic locks, please visit us.allegion.com/products/electronic-locks. To reach a professional security consultant in your area, please contact us at **888.758.9823** or fill out the **Contact Us** form on our website at allegion.com.

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