Keyway security:
A door-by-door approach
Understanding keyway security

There are two aspects to consider when assessing keyway security:

**Administrative security**

**Key control**

Administrative security relates to the barriers put in place to prevent unwanted duplication.

It’s accomplished by putting restrictions and processes in place to control access to specific key blank designs.

**Physical security**

**Cylinder design**

Physical security is improved when design features are added to the cylinder to make it more resistant to bypass.
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How these work together:

A holistic approach to key system security is achieved through combining degrees of administrative control with various levels of physical security mechanisms in the cylinder—all while staying within a single keyway. This creates a flexible and upgradeable solution to fit security needs well into the future.

The resulting solution can combine price-sensitive cylinders in either open or patent restricted keyways. The cylinders can be administratively controlled and the keys can use upgraded physical security mechanisms. Even high-security UL 437 listed cylinders can be applied.

It's not a cookie-cutter approach. Apply high security solutions only on doors that need it, and tailor the rest to fit the needs of each opening. **You’ll gain:**

- Budget savings where risks are low
- Appropriate high-security solutions where needed
- Maintenance simplicity
How does a key system fit into your facility?

Application of open keyways alongside restricted options appropriately addresses security levels of each individual doorway—all while working within a single keyway system.

Let’s take a look.
Perimeter entrance doors
Perimeter entrance doors

Security level: Upgraded
Schlage® recommends: Everest 29 S Primus XP

Even when perimeter entrances have electronic access control in place, those added protections can still be bypassed at the lock cylinder. Increased physical and administrative control is needed.
Office doors
Office doors

Security level: Basic
Schlage recommends: Everest 29™ S

For low-risk entries, an open keyway is convenient and simple to manage.
Multipurpose rooms
Multipurpose rooms

Security level: **Upgraded**
Schlage recommends: **Everest 29™ S Primus® XP**

These types of rooms tend to host a wide range of users and contain high-value technology assets. Therefore, it's recommended to implement a solution that offers improved control over key duplication.
Server room
Server room

Security level: High security
Schlage recommends: Everest 29 S Primus XP with UL 437

Protection of client digital information is critical to this business. Physical security and key control should be at the highest level.
As you begin to define your security needs, there are three important points to consider:

1. Choose the right levels of security.
2. Determine the right cylinder format.
3. Ensure key system and credential security conformity.

Implementing this in your facility: Where to begin
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**Choose the right levels of security**

There are many levels of keyway security. How you choose to apply them in your facility depends on how strictly you need to administer key control and the degree of concern you have around physical security bypass or forced intrusion.

Begin with highest risk openings. This sets the bar for how you approach the rest of the facility. Ultimately you will assess each opening individually, considering the level of security needed and number of people given access.
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### Determine the right cylinder format
Choice of cylinder format is based either on existing locksets or budget when purchasing new. It determines which keyway options are available.

It's helpful to understand the differences between conventional and interchangeable core cylinders. **Let's explore.**
Cylinder formats

**Full-size conventional cylinders**
These cylinders are best suited for environments where you have tight key control and little need to periodically rekey. A conventional cylinder commonly requires some disassembly of the lock for removal and replacement.

**Interchangeable core cylinders**
Interchangeable cores allow cylinder rekey or replacement without disassembly of the lock. They are ideal for larger campuses or facilities with high rates of occupant turnover.

**Small format interchangeable core (SFIC)**
Based on an industry standard plug diameter, small format cores are interchangeable in most manufacturers' SFIC compatible products. They offer a higher degree of rekeying options without replacing lock hardware.

**Full size interchangeable core (FSIC)**
Full size cores are specific to the lock manufacturer design. They offer more flexibility when it comes to rekeying due to the speed and ease of cylinder replacement.
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An alternate solution:

**Schlage® SL cylinders**

Conventional and FSIC cylinders are commonly 6-pinned whereas SFIC cylinders have 7 pins. SL cylinders use the same 7-pin A2 key system of an SFIC cylinder. This enables one key system to span three cylinder formats: conventional, FSIC and SFIC. And as a 7-pin cylinder, it can offer significantly more keying combinations than 5- or 6-pin.
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Ensure key system and credential security conformity

Like keys, credentials come in varying degrees of duplication control. The choice in credential should reflect the highest level of key system security in the building.

In the earlier example we learned that the server room required a high-security solution. If the building owner decided to implement electronic access control, a comparable electronic solution would be a smart credential with advanced data encryption to eliminate duplication.
Ready to learn more?

Get the right levels of security with a comprehensive solution designed to fit your facility’s unique needs and accommodate your budget. Schlage’s key systems protect life safety and valuable assets.

Learn more at
us.allegion.com/keysystems

About Allegion

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