

Using key control to build security into design

Today, the security of a facility is as much a part of the design as any other element. Architects consider everything from the exterior grounds, lighting and parking lot layout to surveillance equipment, door hardware and security systems.

Unfortunately, sometimes security isn't considered until late in the process, which can pose challenges depending on the desires of your client. Allegion makes it easy to integrate security planning early—with minimal impact to your construction budget. We'll help you increase the effectiveness of security measures so you can design a secure building to your client's specifications.

Electronic and mechanical security solutions

Many commercial buildings today have electronic security solutions that monitor and track egress by person, door and even timestamp. They provide enhanced security that is convenient for both the property manager and the end users. While electronic locks are becoming more common security solution, they are not always a stand-alone security solution.

Some owners integrate and support electronic systems with mechanical solutions at certain openings. In fact, depending on the use of the space and who needs access to it, it can be more efficient and cost-effective to use a mechanical solution to control keys at the user level. An [Allegion Spec Writer](#) can help you evaluate the necessary security design for every opening.

Importance of key control

Locks only limit access to a building if you control the keys that operate them. That is, if you have a tracking system for issued keys... no keys are missing or duplicated without authorization... and all are retrieved when people leave the company. That's why you should advise clients to select a master key system protected with patented keys whenever a mechanical solution best fits their needs.

Understanding a master key system

A master key system elevates a facility's access control by providing a group of keys that are designated by opening or area within the building. This is done by differentiating the pins in the cylinder and the cuts on the key to provide access to specific locks throughout the facility. The three main types of keys in a master key system include:

- A grand master, which opens all the facility's openings
- A master key that opens a group of locks, such as all maintenance areas
- Single keys that are cylinder-specific and only open certain doors

Additionally, businesses with high employee turnover may consider a locking system that utilizes interchangeable cores. That way, if a key is lost or if an employee leaves without returning their key, you can remove the core and insert a new one in a matter of minutes without taking the entire lock off the door. This prevents the lost or stolen key from working in your locks, and you won't have to wait for a locksmith to come.

The benefits of a patented key system

You can fortify your client's mechanical lock choice with a key control system like [Everest 29™](#) from Schlage®. A patented key system is the foundation for any secure access control system because it prohibits the duplication of a key without the manufacturer's authorization. Only the system's manufacturer, through its distribution network or contracted locksmith



vendors, can acquire key blanks. Without patent protection, anyone can take a key to a locksmith and duplicate it. Just like that. When you specify a patented key system, you help property owners reduce risk, limit exposure and ensure the integrity of every opening.

More value, lower cost

The best time to consider a patented key system for door hardware—and provide the greatest value for your client's investment—is during the early stages of design, rather than after a building has been constructed. Integrating security into the early design saves time and money for all involved by ensuring the most optimum system is chosen and can be properly applied throughout the space. [Contact a spec writer](#) today and let us help you design a secure facility built on control, convenience and cost-effectiveness.

Everest 29 patented key system

- New undercut design provides patent protection until 2029
- Required letters of authorization to restrict distribution
- Full-size and SFIC cylinder formats
- Backward compatibility with current Everest B, C and D keyways
- Patented design created with unique, through-cut technology
- Security, flexibility and customization at every level throughout a building or campus.

About Allegion

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