

Keys & Cylinders

Field Reference Guide

10-topic reference covering cylinder types, pinning specs, masterkey systems, rekeying, electrified cylinders, and more.

Quick Reference

Command: /keys or tap Keys on home screen

Access: Requires active subscription or trial

Topics: 10 reference topics

Extras: Includes video links and certification info

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1. Getting Started

The Keys & Cylinders guide is a field reference covering 10 essential topics for locksmithing and keying work in access control installations.

To open the Keys Guide:

- Type /keys in the chat, or
- Tap Keys on the home screen keyboard

You'll see 10 topic buttons. Tap any topic for a detailed reference page with a ← Back button to return to the menu. Content is translated on-demand for non-English users.

Tip: Use this guide on-site when you need to verify pin sizes, rekeying steps, or cylinder compatibility. The specs tables are designed for quick lookup.

2. Available Topics

The Keys & Cylinders guide covers 10 topics. Tap any topic button to view the full reference content.

Topic	Description
Cylinder Types	Pin tumbler, SFIC, LFIC, rim, mortise, KIK, high-security
Pinning Specs	Pin sizes, driver types, SFIC 7-pin system, tolerances
Key Cutting	Anatomy, depth & space, machines (manual, code, electronic, laser)
Masterkey Systems	Hierarchy (CK, MK, GMK, GGMK), SFIC masterkey, planning
Rekeying Procedures	Standard pin tumbler (9 steps), SFIC process, common mistakes
Electrified Cylinders	Types, wiring (door loop/EPT), access control integration
Decoding & Impressioning	Visual decoding, caliper method, impression technique
Commercial Key Systems	Hotel systems, key control (KeyWatcher), DND vs patented
Troubleshooting	Hard to turn, won't open, won't insert, too easy, falls out
Certifications	ALOA levels (RL, CRL, CML, CPL), resources, books, YouTube

3. Key Specifications

Standard pin sizes used in pin tumbler cylinders. All measurements are in thousandths of an inch. Tolerance at the shear line is $\pm.0005$ ".

Pin Size	Depth (inches)
0	.150
1	.172
2	.194
3	.217
4	.239
5	.261
6	.284
7	.306
8	.328
9	.370

Note: Tolerance at the shear line is $\pm.0005$ ". Always verify pin sizes with calipers — visual estimation is not reliable enough for masterkey work.

4. Cylinder Types Comparison

Quick comparison of the most common cylinder types encountered in commercial access control installations.

Type	Removable	Rekey Method	Common Use
Pin Tumbler	No	Repin	Standard commercial
SFIC	Yes (control key)	Swap core	High-security commercial
LFIC	Yes (special tool)	Swap core	Institutional
Mortise	No	Repin	Heavy commercial doors
KIK	No	Repin	Retrofit / padlocks

Tip: SFIC cores are the most common in modern commercial access control because they can be swapped in seconds without disassembling the lock.

5. Quick Reference

Action	How
Open Keys Guide	Type /keys or tap Keys on home screen
Browse topics	Tap any of the 10 topic buttons
Return to menu	Tap ← Back on any topic page
Cylinder types	Select Cylinder Types for full breakdown
Pin specs	Select Pinning Specs for sizes and tolerances
Rekeying steps	Select Rekeying Procedures for step-by-step
Certification info	Select Certifications for ALOA levels
Change language	Use /language — topics translate automatically