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THE LOCKSHOP
LOCKING SINCE 1975
Distributors of locks, door handles,
door closers, access control, panic,
exit and other hardware for doors

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SECURITY INFORMATION WITHOUT ROCKET-SCIENCE

CHANGING LOCK CYLINDERS

Clients frequently ask for a lock cylinder to be changed, because there are too many keys for the existing cylinder. They are also often under the mistaken impression that a new cylinder and keys will cure all door problems – which is NOT true!

Fitting a new engine to an old car will not cure existing problems with the wheels, tyres, brakes, or bodywork. In the same way fitting a new cylinder to a lock will not cure problems relating to worn hinges, sagging, cracked or warped doors, loose or damaged door frames, a faulty lock body or a mis-aligned striking plate.

Illustrated below at left are some typical mortice lock **BODIES**. At right are some typical **CYLINDERS** to 'drive' these locks. The key is inserted into the cylinder; if it is the correct key, it will turn, thus typically 'driving' the bolt of the lock to lock or unlock it.



Some typical LOCK BODIES
into which the cylinder is fitted



Some Typical lock CYLINDERS
which are fitted into lock bodies

Replacing the cylinder (the mechanism that drives the lock bolt) will not compensate for rust or wear in the lock body, or any defects of the door itself. The door and hinges should be checked to ensure that there is adequate clearance between door and frame, and that the existing lock body is in good condition and operating properly, **before changing the cylinder**. Worn or damaged keys can also give the impression that the cylinder is faulty. If only one or two keys do not work – the problem is most likely with those specific keys. If all keys do not work – the problem is most likely to be with the cylinder – or the lock-body.

When in doubt use the services of a Member of the Locksmith's Association of South Africa (LASA)

**THE ABOVE GENERAL INFORMATION IS NOT NECESSARILY APPLICABLE TO EVERY SITUATION
but is offered only as a general guide to good practice**