

# "Lock it or lose it" - locksmith

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner



**HOME SECURITY:** Peter King offers homeowners security devices of all types from traditional house locks, to safes to protect papers in case of fire, to cables or chains for securing tools and computer equipment against theft. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

of the job they supposedly change the locks so that the home's new owner is the only one with a working key for that house lock. Maybe they do change it, but the change can be so minor that it doesn't really incapacitate former keys, King said. That's why owners of brand new homes should immediately replace the lock their builder supplied.

Statistics show "over 30 per cent of all burglars have a key to the house they enter," King said. "Victims think they locked their doors but when

the police investigate and there is no sign of forced entry, then they think they must somehow have forgotten to lock up. They didn't forget. The burglar had a key - probably because he, or someone he knows, worked in the area when the house was built."

While there are many types of locks available, those from Medico and ASSA have keys which cannot be duplicated. The only way to replace keys, or make additional ones, is through the original manufacturer.

In addition to blanks for house, car, trailer and assorted recreational vehicle keys, and a wide range of standard looking padlocks, King carries locks for all applications, including some pretty heavy duty monsters. Special tongue locks prevent thieves from just driving in and hooking up to your house trailer or trailer with the boat or snowmobile.

There are also chains of specially hardened steel which won't succumb to bolt cutters for securing property - such as picnic tables, barbeques and perhaps gates. A variation on that - special vinyl-coated cable - works well for indoor applications such as securing computers and monitors, TV, stereo and video equipment and power tools in the workshop.

"Time is the enemy," King said. "Thieves have only a few minutes to get in and get out. Professional thieves know when they see these

locks that they can't get past them quickly so they go elsewhere to the guy who only has the standard lock or perhaps no lock at all."

Even the security bar on your patio door is pretty quick to circumvent if you know how, King said. And professional thieves know how.

"I can wiggle the door out of the track in a couple of minutes with very little effort or sound," he said. "People can't believe how fast I can get in - and I'm not nearly as expert as a pro."

For that, he sells a deadbolt system like that used on regular doors with a bolt that fastens into the upper doorframe. Even removing hinges won't dislodge the bolt.

He even has items for the tourist concerned about the security of valuables left in hotel safes where many staff may have access to them. He recommends lock boxes similar to that used by real estate staff. The boxes are small enough to fit in luggage but large enough to hold jewellery or papers - including passports. When fastened to water pipes or a door knob in your room they again require too much time to open or remove. Anyone trying to snag their contents runs too great a risk of being caught. It's easier to steal from someone else.

King is in his Georgetown shop, Sure Lock Homes, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

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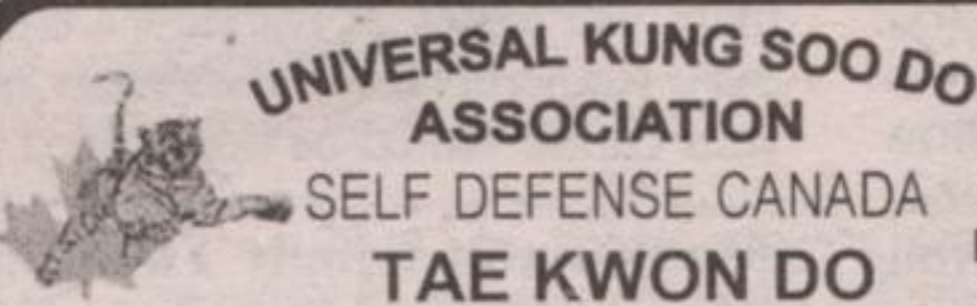
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