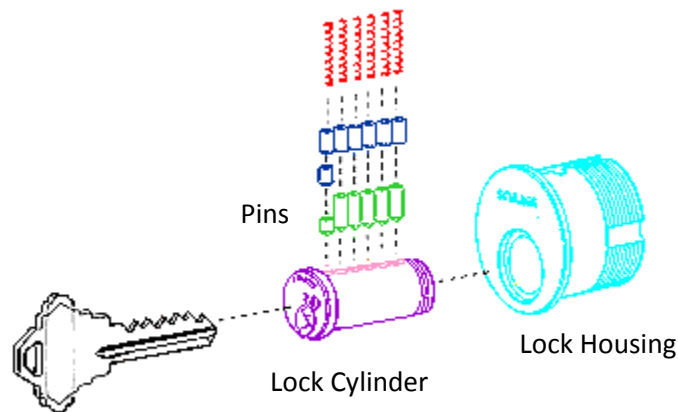Sometimes it might feel that your lock and security specialist is speaking a different language. At ACME, we try use the most commonly understood terminology, but we admit it can get complicated. Hopefully, this document helps clarify it all.

Lock Cylinder:

Most locks take key. The thing the key slides into is called the lock cylinder. Cylinders have pins or wafers that can be rekeyed so the lock will work with a new key.

Pins

Lock Housing

Lock Cylinder

DND

Stands for Do Not Duplicate. If you don't want someone making a copy of your key, stamping a key "Do Not Duplicate" is the simplest way, though not every key copy location will honor the stamp. There are better ways to accomplish key control.

Keyway

Keyway describes the cutting on the shaft of the key. Different manufactures have different keyways. This is why you sometimes find that the key you own

does not slide into the lock you just bought at a home store. The locks have different keyways and are not compatible. For example, a Kwikset key will not fit a Schlage lock. Some brands however do have interchangeable keys. A knowledgeable locksmith will be able to help you find what you need so that all of your locks are compatible.

Front View of a
Common Kwikset
Key

Front View of a
Common Schlage
Key

Finish

Finish refers to how the lock looks. Finish can be composed of both color and texture. Common lock finishes can be found on the ACME Locksmith Website at: **http://www.acmelocksmith.com/finishes.html**

Mortise Locks vs Cylindrical Locks

A mortise lock is generally, but not always, found in commercial buildings. The main lock body for a mortise lock is recessed into the side of the door. A cylindrical lock is a lock that goes through the door and is the most common lock found on Arizona homes.

Mortise Style Lock

Cylindrical Lock

Transponder Keys and Proximity Keys

For the past several years, automobiles have been requiring car keys that need to be programmed to the vehicle in order for the car to start. The head of these keys includes electronic components that "speak" to the car to confirm the key is valid. These are called transponder keys. Some newer vehicles are using proximity keys. These keys also "speak" to the vehicle but from a further distance so that the doors may automatically unlock as the owner approaches the car. With these types of cars a mechanical key may not need to be inserted into the ignition start the vehicle; rather a button is pushed to start the car. In most cases, a good old fashioned mechanical key will still get you into the door or trunk (though it won't start the vehicle).

Transponder Key

Proximity Key

Types of Deadbolts (Single, Double, Half)

A single deadbolt has a key on one side of the lock and a thumb turn on the other. A double deadbolt takes a key on both sides of the door and is required to lock the deadbolt from the inside of the home. Half deadbolts, our #1 recommended home security improvement have a thumb turn on the inside of the home (to lock the door), but nothing on the outside of the door. Because of this, they cannot be picked, bumped, or jimmied open.

Types of Locking Functions (Passage, Privacy, Classroom, Storeroom, Entry)

Did you know there are over 30 different ways a door lock can function? Here are the most common.

Passage Locks: Have no locking function and are for doors that don't need to be secured.

Privacy Locks: Have a thumb turn to lock the lock from the inside of the door and some means to unlock the door from the outside (but not normally a key). An example would be home bedroom or bathroom door locks.

Classroom Locks: Classroom function locks have no way to lock/unlock the door from inside the room. They always have free egress. They use a key to lock/unlock from the outside of the room.

Storeroom Locks: These locks always require a key to get in and always allow free egress.

Entry Locks: Can be locked/unlocked from inside the room with a thumb turn and require a key to get to unlock from the outside.

Gate Locks: Gate locks normally require a key for both sides and are commonly very similar to deadbolts. However, the major difference is that they latch (or lock) automatically when the gate closed.