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The Best Door Lock

Updated November 20, 2024



By **Tim Heffernan**

Tim Heffernan is a writer who covers air and water quality and sustainable-energy technology. He prefers Flare-brand match smoke for purifier testing.

FYI

We've reviewed this guide, edited outdated material, and confirmed our recommendations.

November 2024

After more than 40 hours of reporting, considering scores of deadbolts, and interviewing eight different locksmiths, security experts, and lock manufacturers, we're confident the **Schlage B60N** single-cylinder deadbolt is the best lock for most people's front doors. It has the highest certification available for resistance to forced entry, is extremely difficult to lockpick, and it's affordable, easy to find, simple to install, and widely recommended.

Everything we recommend

Top pick

Also great



Schlage B60N

The best deadbolt lock

[\\$38 from Amazon](#)

[\\$41 from Walmart](#)



Battalion Strike Plate

A \$20 security upgrade

[\\$15 from Amazon](#)

Top pick



Schlage B60N

The best deadbolt lock

Resistant to forced and stealth entry, easy to buy, and widely recommended, the Schlage B60N is like a residential version of a high-security deadbolt.

[\\$38 from Amazon](#)

[\\$41 from Walmart](#)

The Schlage B60N is essentially a residential version of a high-security deadbolt lock. It's rated Grade 1 by [ANSI/BHMA](#),¹ meaning it has passed the same hammering, prying, sawing, picking, and kicking tests as the toughest high-security locks that Schlage produces. Experts told us it's extremely difficult to lockpick the B60N—which, honestly, is not much of a concern anyway, because a Grade 1 lock like this is secure enough that a determined thief would be more likely to bypass it and find another way into the home. We asked four locksmiths to choose between this Schlage model and a similarly qualified deadbolt lock from Kwikset. They unanimously voted for Schlage.

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Also great



Battalion Strike Plate

A \$20 security upgrade

Everyone we spoke to—locksmiths, security experts, lockmakers—said a reinforced strike is the most cost-effective security upgrade, and the Battalion is a winner.

\$15 from Amazon



important as the deadbolt lock itself. After considering about a dozen, we settled on the [Battalion Strike Plate](#): It's affordable, simple, tough, and very similar to the robust strikes many high-security deadbolts come with. That's because, like them, it features an integral metal-lined bolt-hole, which adds strength against kicking and other forms of forced entry. It also mounts to the doorframe with four screws; many standard strike plates use only two.

One complaint: The screws it comes with are just 2 inches long, when 3 inches or even 4 inches is much better—you may want to find longer screws for a stronger attachment to the doorframe. If the Battalion isn't available, the [Prime-Line U 9539](#), which we also looked at, is virtually identical.

If you're looking for a guide to deadbolts that can be controlled via app or smart-home integration, read [The Best Smart Lock](#).

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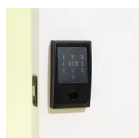
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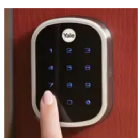
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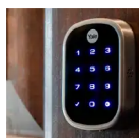
The Best Smart Locks



The Best Electronic Keypad Door Lock



Ask Wirecutter: Do We Really Need High-Security Locks on a Rental House?



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Why you should trust us

What sort of lock are we talking about?

Why you need a new door lock

But a secure door lock is not enough

How we picked this lock

Our pick: Schlage B60N

Flaws but not dealbreakers

A good reinforced strike: Battalion Strike Plate

The competition

What about high-security locks?

What about lockpicking and lock bumping?

How to replace a deadbolt lock

Footnotes





Tim Heffernan



Since I joined Wirecutter in 2015, indoor air and water quality have gone from being somewhat fringe concerns to central worries for many people. First wildfires, then the Flint and Newark lead crises, then COVID-19, and most recently PFAS drove the shift, and it has been a career-defining—and extremely satisfying—challenge to stay on top of the ever-multiplying products used to clean the air and water in homes and to counter the landslides of misinformation and fearmongering that can accompany them.

Since 2021 I've developed a third beat covering residential solar and other energy-saving technology and techniques. It's great fun, not just because it's an extremely complex topic, but also because the best approach for many people is also the simplest and cheapest: weatherizing their homes. Guiding readers toward solutions that don't involve buying shiny new toys is the most edifying thing I get to do here.

Further reading



The Best Smart Locks



The Best Electronic Keypad Door Lock



Ask Wirecutter: Do We Really Need High-Security Locks on a Rental House?



How to Use Your Smart Lock Better

Wirecutter is the product recommendation service from The New York Times. Our journalists combine independent research with (occasionally) over-the-top testing so you can make quick and confident buying decisions. Whether it's finding great products or discovering helpful advice, we'll help you get it right (the first time).



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