

Job Title: **Locksmith**

Work Conditions Pathway: INDOORS/HEAVY WORK/INTERACT WITH PUBLIC (Disk 4)

Occupational Outlook Handbook Information

Nature of Work: Locksmiths repair and open locks, make keys, and change locks and safe combinations. They may install and repair safes, disassemble mechanical or electrical locking devices, or repair or replace worn tumblers, springs, or other parts. They insert new or repaired tumblers into locks to change combinations. Locksmiths may also repair or adjust safes, vault doors, and vault components. They frequently use hand tools, lathes, drill presses, and welding and acetylene cutting tools.

Working Conditions: Locksmiths usually work indoors but may work in a variety of conditions. Some work in shops where consumers bring keys, locks, or other items for repair or replacement. However, others work out of mobile units such as trucks or vans. Many locksmiths work in cramped conditions or in awkward positions as they repair or replace equipment. Many locksmiths work at night or on weekends because they respond to consumer needs.

Employment Outlook: No information available.

Earnings: Average wages of locksmiths were \$12.53 per hour in 1998.

Training, Qualifications, and Advancement: Locksmiths receive extensive on-the-job training. Many require a high school diploma. Good mechanical knowledge and skills are required. Opportunities for advancement are limited.

Representative Job Tasks – Job Carving Possibilities:

1. Repair and open locks, make keys, and change locks
2. Use a picklock or other hand tools to open locks without keys
3. Use power tools and welding equipment to unlock and replace parts
4. Use hand tools to take apart mechanical or electrical locking devices
5. Replace or repair worn tumblers, springs, and other parts
6. Adjust repaired lock to change combination
7. Install new locks
8. Match customer keys with blank-stock keys
9. Use key-cutting machine to cut new and duplicate keys
10. Use power machines and hand tools to smooth edges of cut keys
11. Keep records of company locks and keys

Related Occupations: Safe repairers, safe and vault service mechanics, machinery maintenance workers, welders, sheet metal workers, cutting machine operators, and machinists.

Sources of Additional Information:

- The O*Net Dictionary of Occupational Titles, <http://www.doleta.gov/programs/onet/>
- The Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos151.htm>

Locksmith



Adjust lock to change combination



Install new locks



Make ID tags for locks



Match keys



Repair and open locks



Smooth key edges



Use hand tools to take locks apart



Use key-cutting machine to duplicate keys



Use picklock to open locks without keys