

STANDARD KEYING ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS



COMMON ACRONYMS:

GMK	Grand Master Key
GGMK	Great Grand Master Key
KA	Keyed Alike
KAA	Keyed Alike to a specific number
KD	Keyed Different
MK	Master Key
NMK	No Master Key
SKA	Single Keyed Alike
SKD	Single Keyed Different
X	Cross Keyed

TERM	DEFINITION
BICENTRIC CYLINDER	A cylinder having two independent plugs, sometimes with different keyways. Both plugs are operable from the same face of the cylinder. It is designed for use in extensive master key systems or for security applications requiring two different keys.
BITTING	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The number(s) represent the depth of the key cut(s).2. The actual cut of combination of a key
BITTING LIST	A listing of the key combinations used within a system.
BOW	The portion of the key used as a grip or handle.
BROACH	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Noun: A tool used to cut the keyway into the cylinder plug.2. Verb: To cut the keyway into a cylinder plug with a broach
CAM	A flat actuator attached to the rear of a cylinder and operated by the key.
CHAMBER	A cavity in a cylinder plug or shell which houses the tumbler.
CHANGE KEY	A key operating only one cylinder or one group of keyed alike cylinders in a keying system.
COMBINATION	The group of numbers representing the bitting of a key or the tumblers in a lock or cylinder.
CONSTRUCTION CORE	An interchangeable or removable core designed for use during the construction phase of a building. The cores are normally keyed alike and, upon completion of construction, they are to be replaced by the permanent system's cores.
CONSTRUCTION KEY	A key to operate designated cylinders for a temporary period during construction.
CONSTRUCTION	A key normally used for a temporary period during building construction. It may

MASTER KEY	be rendered permanently inoperative without disassembling the cylinder.
CONSTRUCTION MASTER KEYED CONTROL KEY	A cylinder arranged to be operated temporarily by a construction masterkey. A key to remove or install an interchangeable or removable core.
CONTROLLED CROSS KEYING	A condition where two or more different change keys, under the same higher level master key, operate one cylinder by design, e.g., XAA1 operated by AA2
CROSS KEYING	Combining a cylinder to two or more different change keys of the same master key. See also "controlled cross keying" and "uncontrolled cross keying".
CYLINDER	A complete operating unit, usually consisting of a plug, shell, tumblers, springs, plug retainer, a cam or tailpiece or other actuating device, and all other necessary operating parts.
DISPLAY KEY	A special change key in a hotel master key system allowing access to one designated guest room, even if the lock is in the shut out mode. It may also act as a shut out key for the room. Name comes from the traveling salesman who wanted to shut out all other keys to protect his "displays" from theft.
DRILL RESISTANCE	Arranging a cylinder plug and housing to resist drilling.
DUAL TAG KEY CONTROL SYSTEM	Same as single tag system except a 2 nd permanent tag is used to keep on of each key on file.
EMERGENCY KEY	1. Key to operate hotel locks having lockout feature blocking entry by other keys. 2. A key operating a privacy function lockset from the outside.
ENGINEER'S KEY	A designated master key used by maintenance personnel to operate selected locks under different master keys in a system using three or more levels of keying. Sometimes called Maintenance Key.
FILE KEY	A key attached to a permanent tag in a dual tag key control system.
GRAND MASTER KEY	The key operating two or more separate groups of cylinders, each operated by a different master key.
GRAND MASTER KEY SYSTEM	A key system having three levels of keying.
GRAND MASTER KEYED	A cylinder which is keyed into a grand master key system.
GREAT GRAND MASTER KEY	A key operating two or more separate groups of cylinders, each operated by a different grand master key.
GREAT GRAND MASTER KEY SYSTEM	A key system having four levels of keying.
GREAT GRAND MASTER KEYED	A cylinder which is keyed into a great grand master key system.
GREAT GREAT	A key operating two or more separate groups of cylinders, each operated by different great grand master keys. Seldom used because of limited number of change keys available.

GREAT GREAT GRAND MASTER KEY SYSTEM	A key system having five levels of keying.
HIGH SECURITY CYLINDER	A cylinder offering a greater degree of resistance to picking, impressioning, key duplication or other forms of surreptitious entry.
HIGH SECURITY KEY	A key for a high security cylinder.
HOUSEKEEPER'S KEY	A designated master key in a key operating selected resident, linen rooms, and other housekeeping areas (usually several MK's or a GMK).
INDICATOR	A device providing visual evidence that a deadbolt is extended or a lock is in the shut out mode.
INTERCHANGEABLE CORE/CYLINDER	A cylinder containing both the upper pin chamber and plug in an integral unit removable by a special control key and interchangeable with other cores in the system.
KEY	A properly milled device used to operate a corresponding cylinder.
KEY BLANK	Material manufactured to the size and configuration allowing its entry into the keyway of a specific locking device. A key blank has not yet been cut.
KEY CONTROL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any method or procedure limiting unauthorized acquisition of a key or controlling distribution of authorized keys, keys, or both. 2. A systematic organization of keys and key records.
KEY INTERCHANGE	An undesirable condition, where a key unintentionally operates a cylinder or a lock.
KEY RECORDS	Records including some or all of the following: biting list, key system schematic, end user, number of keys or cylinders issued, names of persons to whom keys were issued, hardware or keying schedule.
KEY SECTION	The cross sectional configuration of a key blade as viewed from the tip toward the bow.
KEY STORAGE CABINET	Cabinet used to store keys.
KEY SYMBOL	A designation used for a key combination in the standard key coding system, e.g., A, AA, AA1, etc.
KEY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC	A visual chart depicting the key system.
KEYED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combined 2. Having provision for operation by key.
KEYED COMMON	See "Maison Key System"
KEYED ALIKE	Two or more cylinders having the same combinations.
KEYED DIFFERENT	Two or more cylinders, each combined differently from the others.

KEYING	Any specification for how a cylinder is, or group of cylinders are, combined.
KEYING CHART	See "Biting List"
KEYING DIAGRAM	See "Key System Schematic"
KEYING SCHEDULE	A detailed specification of the keying system listing how all cylinders are to be keyed and the quantities, markings, and shipping instructions of all keys or cylinders to be provided.
KEYWAY	Broaching in cylinder plug
LEVELS OF KEYING	The divisions of a key system into hierarchies of access.
MAISON KEY SYSTEM	From the French, meaning "house" key system. A key system with one or more cylinders operated by other designated keys in the system; e.g. main entrances of apartment buildings operated by all individual apartment entrance keys (see Cross keying).
MASTER KEY	1. A key operating the entire master keyed locks or cylinders in a group, each lock or cylinder usually operated by its own change key.
MASTER KEY SYSTEM	A key arraignment having two or more levels of keying.
MASTER KEYED	A cylinder or group of cylinders combined so that all may be operated by their own change key and master key.
MASTER KEYING	See "Master Key" #2
MULTIPLE KEYING	Plugs with a different keyway broaching or key section with higher level keys milled to operate more than one keyway.
MULTI-SECTION KEY BLANK	A key entering more than one key broaching in a multiple keyway system.
PARACENTRIC	1. A keyway with one or more longitudinal ribs on each side projecting toward the vertical center line of the keyway. 2. A key blank made to enter such a keyway is a paracentric key.
PICK	Manipulating the tumblers of a lock so as to operate the cylinder without an authorized key.
PLUG	The part of a cylinder containing the keyway and with tumbler chambers usually corresponding to those in the cylinder body.
PROPRIETARY SYSTEM	A system with a keyway or key section assigned exclusively to one or more end users by the lock manufacturer. It may also be protected by law from duplication.
REMOVABLE CORE/CYLINDER	A cylinder which can be removed from a lock by a key or tool and installed in another lock of the same type.
RESTRICTED	A keyway and corresponding key blank whose sale or distribution is limited by the lock manufacturer in order to reduce unauthorized key duplication.

SECTIONAL KEY BLANK	See "multisection key blank"
SECTIONAL KEYWAY SYSTEM	See "multiple keyway system"
SHEAR LINE	The location in the cylinder when the tumblers will line up when the proper key is inserted and permit the plus to be actuated,
SHUT OUT KEY	A key making a lock inoperative to all other keys in the system except the emergency master key, display key, and some types of shut out keys, Usually in hotel keying systems.
SIDE BAR	A secondary locking device in a cylinder. When locked, it extends along the plus beyond its circumference. It must enter gates in the tumblers in order to clear the shell and allow the plug to rotate.
SINGLE TAG KEY CONTROL SYSTEM	A key storage cabinet with control system incorporating one tag for each hook.
SKD	Symbol for "single keyed". Normally followed by a numerical designation in the standard key coding system, e.g. SKD1, SKD3, etc. It indicates that a cylinder is not operated by the other key, but is part of the keying system.
SUB MASTER KEYING	Another level of keying used by some manufacturers between level 1 change keys and level 2 master keys. Use of sub master is not recommended.
"TO BE OPERATED"	Identifying a cylinder or to be operated one or more keys. Never use phrase "to pass" or "subject to".
"TO OPERATE"	Identifying a key or keys to operate cylinders. Never use phrase "to pass" or "Subject to".
UNCONTROLLED CROSS KEYING	A condition in which two or more different keys under different higher level keys operate one cylinder by design; e.g., XAA!, operated by AB, AB1 Note: This condition severely limits the security of the cylinder and the maximum expansion of the system, and often leads to key/interchange.
VISUAL KEY CONTROL	The marking of keys and/or cylinders with standard key symbols.