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Bump Keys: Are Your Locks Really Secure?

Over the past few years, there has been some press about a "new" way to open a lock, using a specially cut key blank, called a "bump key" or a "999 key."

While a description of how to bump a lock is beyond the scope of this article, this technique can be used to bypass many household locks. If you are really interested in the details of the technique, an Internet search will generate plenty of references.

But should you be concerned?

The technique is not really new. The process of key bumping was patented in Britain in 1925. The process works similarly to pick "guns" which have been around for years.

Despite these facts, it has not yet been shown that criminals are making much use of this technique to gain unlawful entry.

Many household locks, however, can be

bumped. If you are concerned about the security of your household locks, you should know that lock manufacturers have developed several ways to combat lock picking and bumping.

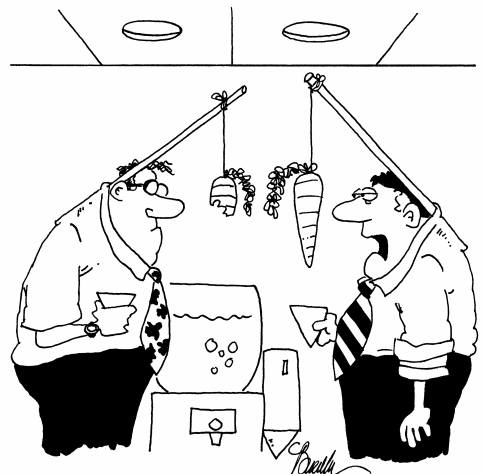
You can increase your security by replacing your locks with higher quality locks or adding a security system.

Controlling Kitchen Moths

You can avoid these little white pests by keeping all grains, even unopened packages, in airtight containers. That can be quite a task.

If you already have kitchen moths, often called wheat moths, you can get rid of them without pesticides.

Make sachets of orange and lemon peel, cedar chips, or lavender and place them in the cupboards. The embarrassing moths will soon disappear.



"The new diet not working out too good, huh, Frank?"



You may be able to silence those squeaky floor boards without resorting to carpentry. Sprinkle some talcum powder on the floor and sweep it back and forth to get it in all the cracks between the boards. If you can get the powder into the right area, it will lubricate the joint and the noise will stop.

Renting Solar Electricity Systems

For those of you who would love to generate some or all of your electricity via photovoltaic panels but were put off by the initial investment, there may be an option for you.

The Citizenrē Corp has developed a program where they pay for the equipment and the installation and you rent it from them, paying a fixed amount for the electricity the system produces. You can sign agreements for

one, five, or twenty-five years and pay the same rate at the end of the contract as in the beginning.

For more information, see <http://renu.citizenre.com/>

The Humble Favor

A study by Stanford's Graduate School of Business shows that a favor actually has shelf life. Soon afterward, the person who received it thought it was more valuable than the person who granted it. Over time, however, the person who received it thought it was not a big deal, but the person who granted it thought it was a big deal.

Some who do a favor want an almost immediate payback.

Others wait.

Stanford found that favor is a powerful word that prompts a person to comply with a request. One study shows that when people in New York's Penn Station were asked to fill out a questionnaire, 57 percent did so. When asked if they would do a favor and fill it out, 84 percent did.

So, could you do us a favor? Tell your family, friends, and co-workers about us? ☺



"You're lucky, Ted. You're the only one around here who doesn't get treated like a number."

Motion Sickness Drug for Dogs

Love to take Fido with you on a trip, but he gets sick? Now, there's help for him and for you. The FDA has approved two motion sickness drugs for dogs.

Your veterinarian can prescribe maropitant citrate tablets (an injectable form is also

available) sold as Cerenia, to prevent vomiting due to motion sickness. Pfizer Animal Health, maker of Cerenia, found that about 17 percent of all canines suffer from motion sickness.

Pfizer says the drug is safe and works in 93 percent of motion sickness cases.

M E A T R Y L A U G H P N
M V J E L D D I F H R I R
L J I F O P E R A S E S A
A R E I D L O S Z I D T B
B M C Y T M H W A D A O H
A R I A H O S A E A R L S
C C K L W T A I L R T W E
W H I P M U S H R O O M L
W E E D N U O R A E U U F
F S O D O C O L L A R L A
B T B O X C W T H I E F N
M N W A R D T C A R T H C
A U B F C E E O E E A I I
N T E A N K W C R D Z D E
B L A N K E T R A I N E R
N Z N F E A T H E R S Y D

Horse Sense

Around	Man
Back	Meat
Balm	Mushroom
Barn	Nettle
Bean	Opera
Blanket	Pistol
Box	Play
Brier	Power
Cart	Race
Chestnut	Radish
Collar	Rider
Doctor	Shoe
Drawn	Show
Fancier	Soldier
Feathers	Tail
Fiddle	Thief
Flesh	Trader
Fly	Trainer
Hair	Weed
Hide	Whip
Laugh	

Massachusetts Contractor Laws – HIC Registration

Q: Should my contractor be HIC registered?

A: Yes, unless the job is less than \$1,000 or if he/she is an electrician, plumber or other licensed professional (but not a builder, who also must have a Construction Supervisor's License).

Q: Is this what the word "licensed" on the side of my builder's truck means?

A: Absolutely not! By putting "licensed" on a business card, truck, or other advertising, the builder is claiming to have a Construction Supervisor's License (CsL).

Q: What do I care about this?

A: The system is in place to afford you a government agency to help if you have a complaint with your

contractor. If the state sides with you, there is money, contributed by those who are registered to pay to have a problem corrected. If you hire someone who is not HIC registered, perform work without building permits or get your own permits, you can't take advantage of the program.

Search for "HIC" on <http://www.mass.gov> for more information.

"All kids are gifted. Some just open their packages earlier than others."

- Michael Carr

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Is Your Car Better Than Your Boss's?

The boss usually drives a great car, but not always.

Cases in point include the late Sam Walton's pickup truck, Warren Buffet's 6 or 7-year-old Lincoln, and Dixon Thayer's '86 F-250 pickup. Thayer, CEO of I-trax, says it shows his commitment to resource management.

People do pay attention to what their CEO drives. Only 10 percent of people making \$100,000 or more didn't know what their chief drives, according to a survey reported in USA Today.

News From the Crew...

We recently completed a very special painting project in the foyer of a condominium building. All of the artistic work was done by one of our employees – thanks Michele!

We have not gotten the

So what would your boss think if you bought a luxury vehicle?

Some bosses approve. They think expensive cars and big loans make a person more committed to the organization, their work, and their goals. They say purchasing one shows faith in the organization.

Other bosses think driving an expensive car could indicate irresponsibility, is a terrible investment, and shows lack of judgment.

A Penn State management professor recommends driving

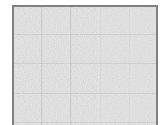
photographs from our "good" camera yet, so the photos are not yet posted on our WWW site. Until they are, here's a small teaser of the faux technique she did one the walls, the vines in the corners, and the custom window

your luxury car only on weekends and not bragging to the boss about the car or your other accomplishments. CEOs, he says, don't like to be outshined.

Psychologists at Golden State Univ. say that of all products in the world, cars are the most reliable representation of the owner's personality.

So should you or shouldn't you buy an expensive car? It boils down to what's important to you. Some people feel a need for an impressive car and can afford one. Others couldn't care less.

and flower pot in the middle of the wall.



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