What to Check on Your Commercial Doors for Better Security

Running a small business means balancing daily operations with keeping your property and people safe. Doors are the most visible part of your security, yet they often get overlooked until something goes wrong. A regular check of your commercial door hardware can prevent small issues from turning into costly problems. This article walks through the key points to inspect, so you know what to look for and when to call a professional.

1. Inspect the Lock Cylinder and Strike Plate

The lock cylinder is the heart of your door security, but it only works well if the strike plate on the door frame is properly aligned. Over time, settling of the building or daily use can shift either component, making it harder for the bolt to seat fully. A bolt that does not engage completely leaves the door easier to force open. Check for any wobble in the cylinder when the key is inserted, and see whether the bolt slides smoothly into the strike plate without scraping. If the door closes on its own but the bolt does not catch, the strike plate may need adjusting. A locksmith can shim or reposition it so the lock works as intended and resists prying.

2. Test the Hinges and Door Closers

Hinges carry the full weight of the door, and a worn hinge pin or loose screw can cause the door to sag. A sagging door often rubs against the frame, creating gaps that a crowbar could exploit. Check each hinge for signs of rust, bent leaves, or missing screws. If the door drags on the floor or the frame, the hinges may need replacing. At the same time, inspect the door closer (the hydraulic arm at the top). A closer that is too fast or too slow can cause the door to slam or fail to latch. Adjust the closer’s valve or have it serviced to keep the door closing securely every time.



3. Examine the Condition of the Door Itself

A solid-core commercial door is much harder to breach than a hollow or damaged one. Look for cracks, rot around the bottom edge, or areas where the wood or metal has been dented. Even a small hole near the lock can allow someone to reach in and manipulate the latch. If the door is metal, check for rust that might weaken its structure. If it is wood, ensure the finish is intact so moisture does not cause swelling or warping. A door that does not sit flush in its frame cannot provide the security you paid for.

4. Review Access Control and Key Management

Many small businesses now use electronic access control systems instead of traditional keys, but the same principle applies: you need to know who has permission to enter and at what times. Check that the keypad, card reader, or biometric scanner is clean and responsive. Look at the audit trail if your system records entry events. Are there logins at odd hours? Former employees or contractors might still have active credentials. For businesses that still use mechanical keys, a key cabinet with a sign-out sheet can help track who has copies. If you have lost track of who holds keys to the back door or the supply closet, it is time to consider

rekeying the locks so that only current staff have access. This is where business lock rekeying becomes a practical step: it changes the internal pins of the lock so old keys no longer work, without replacing the entire hardware. It is a fast way to restore control over who can enter.

5. Check the Condition of Weatherstripping and Threshold

Weatherstripping around the door helps keep out drafts and water, but it also blocks the view of the gap between door and frame. If the strip is cracked or missing, not only does your heating bill rise, but the gap also gives an intruder a place to insert a tool. Run your hand along the perimeter of the closed door. If you feel air moving or see daylight, the seal is failing. Replace the weatherstripping with a commercial-grade brush or rubber seal that compresses tightly when the door closes. Also inspect the threshold plate at the bottom. A bent or worn threshold can leave a gap under the door that is large enough to slide a credit card through, defeating the lock above.

6. Verify That Panic Hardware Functions Properly

If your business has a door that is used as an exit by employees or customers, it likely has panic hardware (a push bar or touch bar). This hardware must allow one easy motion to open the door and disengage the lock. Test it by pushing the bar firmly. It should release the latch without sticking and retract fully when the bar is released. If the bar sticks, binds, or does not latch back, it could cause a door to remain unlocked after use. Regular cleaning and lubrication of the moving parts can prevent this, but any sign of wear on the bar’s mechanism should be inspected by a professional who understands commercial door hardware.



7. Look Over the Frame and Jamb Alignment

The door frame is the anchor point for the lock, hinges, and strike plate. If the frame itself is damaged or out of square, no lock will provide full security. Check the jamb for cracks, especially near the strike plate. A common point of failure is where the frame meets the floor; moisture can cause wood frames to rot or metal frames to rust. Use a level to see if the frame is plumb. If it is not, the door will always have alignment issues. In some cases, a locksmith can install a reinforced strike plate with longer screws that reach into the wall studs, strengthening the whole assembly. That simple upgrade can make a door much harder to kick in.

8. Assess the Security of Secondary Doors and Windows

While the main entrance gets the most attention, side doors, back doors, and windows near door handles are common points of entry for thieves. Check that secondary doors have the same quality of lock as the front door. A deadbolt on the back door is just as important as one on the main entrance. For windows within reach of a door handle, consider installing a secondary lock or a security film that makes the glass harder to break. A door with a window near the lock is vulnerable if the glass can be broken to reach the latch. In such cases, a double-cylinder deadbolt (keyed on both sides) can help, but check local fire codes first because that type can slow an emergency exit.

Keeping a routine of these checks does not need to be time-consuming. A monthly walk-through of your doors, noting any changes in how they feel or sound when closing, can catch

problems early. If you find a lock that is sticky, a door that does not align, or keys that are missing, it is worth getting a professional opinion. A qualified commercial locksmith can handle adjustments and replacements that keep your security hardware reliable. For businesses in Edmonton, services like LocksmithWire provide licensed and insured 24/7 emergency, residential, commercial, and automotive locksmith services. Their technicians can help with everything from rekeying a single lock to upgrading your entire access control system.



The goal is not to overhaul everything at once, but to build a habit of checking the parts that matter most. A small business cannot afford a break-in, and most break-ins happen through a door that was left unsecured or a lock that was not maintained. By looking at the points above,

you can address weaknesses before they become incidents. And when a lock needs new pins or a door needs a stronger strike plate, business lock rekeying or a hardware upgrade is a straightforward fix. Regular attention to your commercial doors will pay off in peace of mind and real protection for your business assets.