

## Squab Guest Blog



### Rory Mason All Masons Locksmiths



Rory Mason is a Master Locksmith and owner of All Masons Locksmiths. The family owned company with Master Locksmith Association accreditation, provides a 24-hour emergency (and non-emergency) locksmith service to private households and businesses in Leicestershire, Coventry, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. Here, Rory talks to Squab Removals customers, giving security advice to those who have recently moved, or who are about to move into a new home.

“Many people won’t have a telephone number in their address book for a locksmith – it’s the type of service that is used ‘as and when needed’. So in the event of wanting to use such services, many simply call their nearest locksmith business. The industry would always recommend using a business that has Master Locksmith Association accreditation. It is the only recognised association for the British locksmith industry and is definitely much more than a fancy logo. It means that these locksmiths are checked on an annual basis for all round quality standards, from the quality of their workmanship to the quality of their administration and customer service. It also governs prices to ensure customers are quoted a fair and consistent price. MLA audits are random and can be unannounced which is good for the industry. If standards slip, then accreditation can be revoked so customers of Master Locksmith accredited businesses have extra quality reassurance.

When you move into a new property, we always recommend that you change your door locks. This applies to new build properties too. (Think of all the builders and installers who have had access during the construction process.) While this may seem extravagant, it is a ‘belt and braces’ approach to home security and a small price to pay for peace of mind. While the previous owners may have handed over the keys in all good faith, it is hard to be 100% sure that these are “all the keys”. Keys may still be possessed by several previous owners/key holders of the property. The problem is in the detail of some insurance policies and can affect the cover they provide. In the event of a break in, some insurance companies will not pay out, or only pay a percentage of the value of possessions stolen, if entry is gained by the use of keys.

The same risk also applies to rented properties, where it is usually the responsibility of the tenant to make arrangements for home security. There will often be many key holders in a rented property’s history. Again, we recommend changing the door locks but obviously the property landlord will need to have the master key.

Insurance cover usually stipulates a certain standard, or type of ‘thief-resistant’ lock for UPVC and wooden doors. In terms of domestic insurance, you will frequently see the requirement for BS 3621 security locking devices (such as five lever mortice deadlock) and the option for reduced premiums if your home is fitted to this standard because it offers a higher level of security. With this type of lock, a key is needed to lock and unlock your property from the inside and out. They are recommended by insurance companies and the police. All too often, we see people who slam the door shut with a Yale lock and think that’s sufficient!

It is not just doors either. Window latches and locks need to be checked and secure. We recommend a lock on all downstairs windows, or those near to a flat roof.

If you are moving, or have just moved into a new property, then it is always a good idea to review the locking arrangements. All Masons Locksmiths provide free security surveys. It's always a good idea to book in advance, in preparation for completion of the sale, but we can very often accommodate same day or next day requests. In an emergency, if you are in Warwickshire, Leicestershire or Northamptonshire, we can usually be with you within the hour. And this is not unusual, when customers have new keys on the day of their move – the snapped front door key is a common calamity, but one that we can rectify!”

For further information about All Masons Locksmiths, please telephone Rory on **01858 680 746** or visit [www.allmasonslocksmiths.com](http://www.allmasonslocksmiths.com)