

**State of Connecticut, Department of Developmental Services
Southbury Training School Fire Department
DDS Fire Safety and Emergency Guidelines
INFORMATIONAL SHEET**

Door Locking Arrangements

Every home is equipped with various types of door locks. The type of lock that you use in a home is regulated. The following information should help you to ensure that your locking arrangement is a safe design in the event of a fire.

What are the types of locks??

Standard Entry door locks – These locks are what you find in a typical home. You use a key from the exterior of the door, and the interior you either turn the handle, or turn a simple thumb device to unlock the door

Deadbolts - These locks enhance the security of the home. They are usually used in conjunction with a standard entry door lock.

Magnetic Door Lock- These locking arrangements utilize a strong magnet in conjunction with code or key fob to unlock the door.

Delayed Egress locks - These locks delay the user from exiting for a short period of time before the door releases.



1) Entry Door Lock



2) Interior image of a deadbolt with an unlocking mechanism that does not require a key and may be acceptable.



3) Key operated deadbolt
These Are Prohibited In All Residential Settings*



4) Magnetic Lock

What do I need to know about these locks??

Deadbolts - The deadbolts primarily come in two different types, those with a release mechanism that does not require a key or special tool on the interior of the door, and those that do require a key. **It is important to know that you cannot use the type that requires a key from the interior in any of the Residential occupancies such as Residential Board and Care, in Apartments and Health Care* or single family homes.**

The Fire Code indicates that for residential occupancies such as Board and Care, Apartments and Health Care you are only allowed to have one additional lock releasing mechanism (i.e. two locks) from the interior of the home, both of which require that you do not need a key or other special tool to open the door.

Magnetic Door Locks/ Delayed egress locks - These are special types of locking arrangements **that require interaction with your local fire code official.** There are special requirements for these to include interaction with the fire alarm system in some instances.

What should I do if I think I have an improper lock on the doors of a residence?

1. Ensure that your facility management personnel or other appropriate agency personnel are aware of any problems, so that they may make provisions to have the lock evaluated and repaired or replaced.

*= There may be an exception provided within a healthcare occupancy. Consultation must be made with the Authority Having Jurisdiction to ensure proper code compliance utilizing this type of a lock

For more information on Fire Safety:

- Reference the revised 2009 DDS Fire Safety and Emergency Guidelines-
NOW available on the DDS Website: <http://www.ct.gov/dds>
- Contact your Facility Management Personnel for group homes and apartments
- Contact your Fire Marshal or Fire Department
- Contact the Southbury Training School Fire Department at 203-586-2444