



A Key Lockbox Provides MPTH Residents Security in Case of Emergency

A key lockbox is not just a “nice to have” accessory. It plays a critical role when the user experiences a life-threatening situation and needs help from emergency responders as quickly as possible. The lockbox allows emergency personnel to quickly enter a house with a homeowner’s key kept in a secure steel box, much like those that allow real estate agents access to homes for sale.

What Is A Key Lockbox?

A key lockbox is a box constructed of tough metal with a combination lock used to store the keys for entry to a home. The storage box can be unlocked through a secret combination code (usually a 4-digit code) set by the user. You may have seen these lockboxes hung on railings or mounted on walls outside homes. These boxes are used in the real estate industry for sharing access to a residence or office space. Key lockboxes allow ready access to homes for people who have been given the secret and secure combination code. Users can also provide emergency contact information, medical information, doctors’ names, burglar alarm codes and pet information.

The secure combination code can be shared with the West Des Moines Police dispatch office to associate with the user's address. The lockbox can also be placed in discreet locations, hidden from plain view.

Medical Alert Key Lockbox Options

If you are a medical alert system subscriber, you can purchase a lock box directly from the medical alert company, a store like Walmart or Home Depot, or online through Amazon. Most medical alert companies have these in stock. If you have not yet subscribed to a medical alert system, you may be able to get a lock box free. Some companies will gift this to their new customers.

Benefits Of A Lockbox For Keys

- **Bypasses Damage To Doors In Forced Entry Situations:** When answering emergency calls, first responders will need to get to the patient. If there is no easy way to enter the home, the first responders will be forced to break open a door or window to access the home, which could result in a security risk.
- **Faster Attention From Responders – This Can Be Critical:** A key lockbox gives more time for the first responders to attend to the senior patient rather than figure out a way to open the door.
- **A Safe Place For Spare Keys:** A key lockbox also provides medical alert system users with another place to store a set of spare keys. It’s a more secure solution than hiding the keys under the doormat or behind the plants. If they lock themselves out of the home, or can’t remember where they left their keys, they always know where to turn for the spare keys.
- **Low Cost:** The cost of a key storage lockbox is around \$30. Many medical alert companies also carry this in stock, so that users can order it along with a medical alert system. Otherwise, they are readily sold at hardware stores and online.

Sample lock boxes

