

## Door Fire Safety

Striking the right balance between high security on your exit door and easy egress in case of fire can be problematic. Here are a few useful tips from Winlock:

### KEYS

With deadlocked high security doorlocks if you cannot find the key you will not be able to escape. One option is to leave the key in the inside of the doorlock, meaning the key is always there when you need it. The downside of this is that this will usually prevent a key being used from the outside which if you live alone might actually be desirable but not otherwise. If the door has multipoint locking then you have the option of a thumbturn cylinder on the inside so a key is not needed at all to exit and a key can still be used to lock/unlock from the outside. From a security viewpoint we would not advise fitting a thumbturn on a door with a letterbox unless the letterbox has a security cowl.

### FIRE ESCAPE LOCKS

Multipoint locks can be provided with special features that allow all locking points to be unlocked from the inside by throwing the handle, no key is required. Ask about our GU range of fire escape locks. The downside of these devices is they cannot be deadlocked from the inside and may be operable by children.

### ELECTRONIC LOCKS

A more expensive and sophisticated option is the use of locks driven electronically that can be linked to a fire or smoke alarm so that in the event of emergency the inside deadlock is disabled so the door can be opened by simply turning the handle. This function is available in our Security Auto and Stronghold multipoint lock options for a package that combines high security with fire safety without compromising either.

### INTERNAL FIRE DOORS

Certain rooms may be more prone to fire than others, in which case consider fitting internal fire doors to such rooms to protect the rest of the building, or to provide a secure route out of the property in case of fire. Fire rated (30 minute or 60 minute) internal doors are widely available or contact Winlock Technical Department for advice as to where to buy them.

As you can see there is often a trade off between security and fire safety, but with a bit of consideration you can have a solution that provides both.