When a panic bar is worn out, the obvious move is to buy one that looks like it and swap it in. On a commercial door, that shortcut causes more trouble than almost anything else we see. Exit devices come in many configurations, and two that look nearly identical from across the room can mount differently, latch differently and work very differently with the rest of the door.

If your business in Culver City, El Segundo, Inglewood or anywhere around Los Angeles needs a new exit device, or wants to add one to a door that does not have one, here is what goes into choosing the right fit.

## Start With the Opening, Not the Device

An exit device is one part of an opening that also includes the door, the frame, the hinges, the strike, the closer and any outside trim or lock. The right device depends on all of those. Important questions include:

- **Single door or paired doors?** Pairs of doors often need devices that work together, and the arrangement affects what can be installed.
- **What material is the door?** Aluminum storefront, hollow metal and wood doors each have their own mounting considerations.
- **Is there outside access?** If people need to enter from outside with a key or handle, the device has to work with that exterior trim.
- **Are there electrical connections?** Some openings have powered components, and those need to be accounted for.
- **What labels are on the door or device?** Visible product information helps identify what you have now.

Existing fastener locations, dimensions and related hardware all influence what will fit cleanly. That is why appearance alone does not make a match.

## Repair Versus Replacement

https://ls24hrlocksmith.com/contact-us/

Before replacing anything, it is worth asking whether the current device can be repaired. If the problem is a worn part and replacement parts are available, repair may be the practical choice. If the device is heavily worn, damaged or unsuitable for how the door is used today, replacement makes more sense.

1ST L.S. Locksmith inspects the existing device and the rest of the opening before recommending either route, and explains the reasoning. A sticking or loose bar is not automatically a replacement job.

## Changing the Style of Device

Sometimes a business wants something different from what it has: a different style of bar, a device that works with new exterior hardware, or exit hardware on a door that has never had it. Those changes can be done in many cases, but they need planning. The technician assesses the proposed change against the door, the related hardware and how the opening will be used. Some changes may also call for input from the property's responsible professional, especially where the opening is part of a larger building system.

If a proposed device is not a good fit for the door, you will hear why and what the alternatives are.

## Planning the Installation

When you call, share the address, the door type, whether it is a single or paired opening and any visible device or door labels. Photos are helpful. Let us know about access restrictions and the best time for the work, since a door being serviced may be out of normal use for a while. An authorized business or property contact should be available to confirm the scope.

The scope and price are agreed before work begins. When the new bar is mounted, the opening is run through its paces, release, swing and latch, and anything that falls outside the agreed job is pointed out. Keep the installed device's information on file, as it makes future maintenance and repairs much easier.

Call at any hour to talk through which device fits your door. The right panic bar repair and installation in Los Angeles starts with understanding the whole opening, not just picking a bar off a shelf. To discuss your door, reach 1ST L.S. Locksmith, 1580 Centinela Ave #7, Inglewood, CA 90302, (310) 430-1030.