

# Do Not DUPLICATE

Fact and fiction about  
duplicating keys



**ASSA**<sup>®</sup>  
*We Secure The World*  
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Unauthorized key duplication remains the single-most violated security policy in today's business. Those seeking to have a key copied usually meet with little or no resistance. In fact, nearly all keys can - and will - be duplicated with no questions asked. The stamping of "do not duplicate" presents a challenge to most key cutters instead of a threat. It has been estimated that unauthorized key duplication accounts for as much as 40% of unexplained illegal entries, resulting in billions of dollars in losses to businesses each year. Here are some common misconceptions about key cutting rights and "restricted keys."

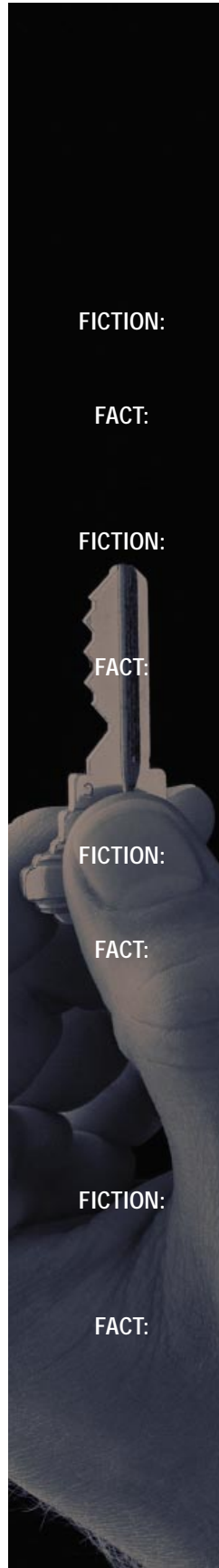


**FACT:** The new Twin Exclusive and V-10 are protected by United States patents, Patent Numbers 5,067,335 and 5,640,865. These patents are separate of the ASSA High Security Cylinder Patents and protect the blank against unauthorized manufacture.

**FACT:** The ASSA High Security Key is made available to selected customers throughout the world on an exclusive or proprietary basis. That is, the keys for that customer are unique for that customer.

**FACT:** Key duplication is simple if authorized by the customer - either on site or by customer-appointed dealer.

**FACT:** Each ASSA High Security Cylinder has two independent locking mechanisms. The first is a set of pins that must be elevated to a predetermined point and aligned horizontally across the top of the inner cylinder. The second is a sidebar that is uniquely mated to a key that is coded at the factory. This sidebar and key combination can be exclusive to the customer and controlled by state or region.



**ASSA TWIN EXCLUSIVE AND V-10 HIGH SECURITY LOCKING SYSTEMS**



**FICTION:**

Keys stamped "do not duplicate" are protected by law.

**FACT:**

Many keys are stamped "do not duplicate" as a request to their holder. There is no legal connection or consequence.

**FICTION:**

Companies offering "restricted" keys mean that locksmiths or key cutters are not allowed to duplicate them.

**FACT:**

Most companies offer "restricted" keys. However, this term refers to that company's distribution policy on the key and has nothing to do with duplication rights. Most restricted keys are easily duplicated.

**FICTION:**

Keys for all "high-security cylinders" are protected from unauthorized duplication.

**FACT:**

Only the key blank can be protected from unauthorized manufacturing, and then only if the key blank itself is patented. Purchasers of "high-security" keys and cylinders should ask to see proof of patent on the key blank and not the cylinder that it operates.

**FICTION:**

Most key cutters will ask questions about your key and will normally comply with any warning or request not to duplicate that key.

**FACT:**

Only professional locksmiths will honor such requests if they are familiar with the manufacturer. Non-professional key cutters such as hardware stores, shops or mall vendors will usually duplicate any key if the key blank is available to them.