Keys locked in the trunk: what to check before calling

Before you call for help, check a few things first

Realising your keys are locked in the trunk is a frustrating moment. You have the rest of the car open, but the cargo area is sealed shut with the key fob or key ring sitting inside. Before you reach for the phone to call a locksmith, there are several things worth checking. Some vehicle models offer multiple ways to open the trunk, and a quick look can save you time and money. Here is what to check before calling for a car trunk opening service.

Check the trunk latch release inside the cabin

Most modern cars have a trunk release mechanism inside the passenger compartment. It is usually a lever, a button, or a handle located on the driver's side floor, near the door panel, or on the centre console. Look for a small icon of a car with an open boot. Pulling or pressing this release may pop the trunk open even if the keys are inside. The release is mechanical or electronic, and it often works regardless of the engine being off. If you cannot find it, check your owner's manual or look online for your specific vehicle model. This is the simplest and cheapest thing to try first.

Try the remote release on the key fob (if you have a spare)

If you have a spare key fob at home, or if someone can bring it to you, try pressing the trunk release button on that fob. Many key fobs have a dedicated button for the trunk, often marked with a car boot icon. Even if the car is locked, the fob's signal can reach the trunk latch from a distance. If the spare fob is not available, but you have a valet key or a physical key that fits the door lock, you may be able to open the trunk using that key. Some vehicles use a separate lock cylinder on the trunk lid itself, often hidden behind a small plastic cover near the license plate. Pry it open gently with a flat tool and insert the key. This can release the latch manually.



Fold down the rear seats to access the trunk

Many cars, especially hatchbacks, sedans, and SUVs, have folding rear seats that provide a passthrough to the cargo area. Check the back seat for a release handle or a button near the top of the seatback. Some models have a release in the trunk itself, but if the trunk is locked, you may need to pull a small tab or lever in the rear passenger area. Once the seat folds forward, you can reach into the luggage compartment and retrieve the keys. If the seat release is electronic and the car battery is dead, this may not work. In that case, look for a manual release lever near the seat latch, often hidden in the seatback or near the seatbelt anchor. This mechanical release can be operated without power.

Check for a hidden key slot or emergency release

Some vehicles include a mechanical key slot inside the trunk lid or near the latch itself. This is common in cars with keyless entry systems. If you can reach the trunk latch area through a small gap when the trunk is slightly open (even a few millimetres), you may be able to insert a small screwdriver or a flat tool to push the latch mechanism. However, be careful not to damage the paint or the latch assembly. Another option is the emergency trunk release, often a glow-in-the-dark handle or a T-shaped lever located inside the trunk near the latch. If the trunk is unlocked but the lid is stuck, this release may open it. But if the keys are inside and the trunk

is locked, you cannot reach this release without first opening the trunk. Still, it is worth knowing about for future reference.

Consider the battery and key fob signals

Sometimes the issue is not the keys being locked inside, but a dead battery in the key fob or a weak signal. If you have a spare fob nearby, try pressing the trunk release button from close range. If the fob battery is dead, the car may not detect it. Some cars have a backup system: you can hold the fob near the trunk release button or near a specific sensor (often on the trunk lid or near the license plate) to still open the trunk. Check your vehicle model's specific procedure. For example, some VW and Audi models require you to hold the fob against the trunk lock cylinder or a designated spot on the bumper. This can be a quick fix without calling a locksmith.



When none of these work, call a professional

If you have tried all the above and the trunk remains locked, it is time to call a mobile locksmith. A professional can open the trunk without damaging the car, often within minutes.

For drivers in Brampton, a service like lockedkeysincarbrampton.com can help. They specialise in unlocking vehicles, including cars with keys locked in the trunk. Their technicians have the tools and experience to handle various makes and models, from older cars to modern keyless systems. Remember to have your vehicle identification number (VIN) and proof of ownership ready when you call. That helps the locksmith confirm you are the owner and speeds up the process.

It is also worth noting that some roadside assistance plans cover trunk lockouts. Check your insurance policy or membership details. If you have coverage, they may send a technician or reimburse you for the locksmith call. But even if you do not, the cost of a professional car trunk opening is usually reasonable compared to the trouble of breaking a window or damaging the trunk latch.

Prevention: avoid future lockouts

To avoid finding yourself in this situation again, consider a few simple habits. Always keep a spare key in your wallet, purse, or with a trusted person who can bring it to you. If your car has a keyless entry system, make sure the fob is on your person before closing the trunk. Some cars will not lock the keys inside if the fob is detected in the luggage compartment, but not all. Test your car's behaviour: place the fob in the trunk and close the lid. If the car beeps or refuses to lock, you know it has a safety feature. If it locks anyway, you know to be careful. Also, many modern cars allow you to open the trunk via a smartphone app or a remote start system. Check if your car has this feature and set it up. It could save you a call in the future.



Finally, remember that lockedkeysincarbrampton.com is a reliable option for when you are locked out. Their mobile service comes to you, whether you are at home, at work, or stuck in a parking lot. They can handle the job quickly, so you are not stranded for long. Keep their number saved in your phone, just in case. A little preparation goes a long way.