



**Independent Living Centre**  
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## **CHOOSING A KEYSAFE**

### **What are Keysafes?**

If you are looking to buy and fit a key safe then there are a few things you need to consider before purchasing. The aim of a key safe is to give authorised entry to your home by allowing individuals to access a securely stored house key. This can be useful for those who are unable or struggle to get to their door to let callers in, and is particularly valuable when the occupant has frequent carer visits or where they are at risk of falls and need to allow emergency access.

They work by storing a key in a small box (a key safe) on the outside of your property, usually bolted to an external wall of your property. Friends, family or carers can be given the code which they enter into the key pad, allowing the safe to unlock and the key removed. They are then able to let themselves in to the property replacing the key and locking the unit when leaving. Most units have the ability to reset the code whenever you feel necessary, giving peace of mind if you no longer wish someone to be able to gain access to your home.

Keysafe codes can also be securely logged with Moray Council and can be accessed by emergency services or carers 24 hours a day. If you have community alarm or telecare equipment we strongly recommend you inform us of your key safe code in case we need to contact emergency services. To notify the council of your code or any changes, then please call the Access Care Team on **01343 563999**. It is also useful to share this information with your GP practice in case you need a home visit and are unable to get to the door.

### **What to look for in a key safe**

The main consideration in purchasing a key safe is its level of security. They should always be fitted in line with manufacturer's instructions by a suitably trained or qualified person. Secure fitting will minimise the risk of the unit being removed from your home. The second important factor is the quality of

the unit itself. It is important that it is manufactured to a high specification to prevent the safe from being hammered or sawn open.

Some suppliers indicate that their key safe is police or insurance approved in terms of secure design and/or the durability of the metal. But this is not always the case so please check with your own Insurance Company to confirm if it is something that they approve.

Also consider whether the key safe code can be reset/changed in the event that you no longer want an individual to have access.

### **How does a Keysafe work?**

Keysafes are generally operated by either a push button (fig a) or a barrel mechanism (fig b)



(Fig a)



(Fig b)

With a push button, the code is never visible; however with a barrel type it is essential that the caller remembers to scramble the combination after use.

Consider using a key safe with more than 4 digits as an increased security feature, since this may discourage obvious number sequences such as date of birth. If possible use of a letter as well as digits adds to the security of the combination code.

Some key safes have a removable cover while others will flap open from either the top or the bottom and remain attached. Where they open from the bottom, the cover will automatically fall to a closed position but may not be locked. Key safes which open from the top will remain open providing a visual cue for the caller to return the key and secure the key safe.

Some key safes are designed like a large padlock and can be secured to railings or outside pipes and have the key stored inside the body of the padlock. These are potentially less secure than the box style attached to the wall, as it could be sawn off

## Police Approved Keysafes



### **CPO Secured by Design**

Established in 1989, Secured by Design (SBD) is owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and is the corporate title for a group of national police projects focusing on the design and security for new & refurbished homes, commercial premises and car parks as well as the acknowledgement of quality security products and crime prevention projects.

### **Secured by Design Membership**

The company operates a licensing scheme and includes member companies who are entitled to use the Secured by Design logo and promote the term 'Police Preferred Specification' on products which have passed the tests specified by ACPO Secured by Design. There are currently eight Keysafes registered and these can be viewed at:

[http://www.securedbydesign.com/?post\\_type=product&s=key+safes](http://www.securedbydesign.com/?post_type=product&s=key+safes)



Supra C500 KeySafe™	Product code: 002049	Price £59.94
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The Supra UK C500 KeySafe was designed after extensive consultation with users. It is the original KeySafe to have Police approval. It has achieved LPS 1175 Level 1 security rating which means it has undergone a series of rigorous and demanding tests devised by security experts who concluded that, when installed as directed, the Supra UK C500 is as attack resistant as a domestic front door.

**\*Please note to maintain the Police Accreditation the C500 must be installed into bare brick or dense concrete, not breeze block, mortar or rendered finishes.**

### **Supra UK Ltd T/A Sentic.**

24 The Furlong, Berry Hill Industrial Estate, Droitwich Spa, WR9 9AH

**Telephone:** 01905 770333      **Fax:** 01905 797773

**Email** [sales@keysafe.co.uk](mailto:sales@keysafe.co.uk)

*Prices valid as of November 2016*

More details can be found at <https://keysafe.co.uk/> including a video demonstration of the C500 and installation.

Other recent additions to the police approved list include the Keyguard XL, available at <http://thekeysafestore.co.uk/police-approved> or by calling 01352 736125. This retails at £57.60 including VAT and delivery. The company are also able to offer a national installation service for an additional £48.00; however this may not be available in Moray and should be checked directly with the company before purchasing.



Other models of key safes are available from Amazon; B&Q and Screwfix but may not be classed as police approved and therefore be less secure.

### **Fitting of your Keysafe**

The **Moray HandyPerson Services in Elgin** may be able to fit your key safe if you are unable to fit it yourself or you cannot find someone to do it for you. They have a number of volunteers who have been trained to install the Supra key safe and they **have a stock of the Supra C500**. Please note that there is a charge for the key safe and a small charge for fitting it. Please call **01343 559739** for further information.

Check the instructions supplied with your key safe some can be fitted by a competent DIY person, while others require fitting by a suitably trained or qualified person.

You should always use the correct fixings recommended by the manufacturer to ensure the strongest possible adherence to the wall. In general, fixing to brickwork is recommended as timber or plasterboard is less secure.

When installing a Keysafe it is essential that you notify your Home Insurers as it may affect the validity of your policy

**This Moray Council does not endorse any of these products. It is not an exhaustive list, but is intended to increase your awareness of points to consider and options available.**