

BEST Master Key System Planning Guide

Master Key System Fundamentals

An institutional master key system provides hierarchical access control across multiple buildings. Proper system design ensures security while enabling efficient facility management and emergency access.

Hierarchy Levels

A typical institutional system includes: Grand Master Key (all locks), Area Master Keys (building level), and Change Keys (individual door level). Additional levels can be added for departments or zones.

Level	Access Scope	Quantity	Security Level
Grand Master	All Locks	1-3	Highest
Area Master	Building/Zone	3-5	High
Change Key	Individual Door	Unlimited	Standard

Restricted Keyways

BEST offers restricted keyways such as the Patent keyway for institutional use. Restricted keyways prevent unauthorized key duplication and enhance security across the system.

Planning Process

Document all doors requiring locks, define access levels, select appropriate keyway and function codes, and work with qualified locksmiths to specify and install the complete system.