Moving a business into a new space is exciting and exhausting. There are permits, signage, internet, furniture and a long list of contractors. In the middle of all that, the landlord hands you a ring of keys and says, "These are all of them." Maybe they are. But the previous tenant had employees, cleaners, vendors and a contractor or two, and any of them could still be holding a copy.

Taking possession of a commercial unit in Inglewood, Culver City, El Segundo or anywhere in greater Los Angeles is the right moment to reset access.

Start by Mapping the Space

Before calling anyone, walk the unit and list every keyed opening:

- The main customer entrance, which may be an aluminum storefront door.
- Rear or service doors to an alley or loading area.
- Interior offices, storage rooms and electrical or utility closets.
- Any door leading to a shared corridor, restroom or stairwell.

Try every key you were given in every lock. Mark which ones work, which ones do not and which doors you cannot open at all. That last group matters, because it may mean someone else, possibly the landlord, controls that lock.

Know What Is Yours to Change

Commercial leases vary a lot on locks. Some allow tenants to rekey or replace locks within their unit freely. Others require the landlord's approval or require that the landlord keeps a key. Shared doors, such as a building entrance or a common hallway, are almost always the landlord's responsibility.

Read the lease or ask the property manager before scheduling work. 1ST L.S. Locksmith needs an authorized representative to confirm the scope, and if the landlord controls certain doors, their involvement may be needed for those openings.

Rekey, Replace or Upgrade?

For most new tenants, rekeying is the efficient first step. With commercial lock rekeying in Los Angeles, the handles and lock bodies you inherited stay put while each compatible cylinder is set to a brand-new key. Every key the previous tenant handed out stops working on the locks that were serviced.

Replacement or new hardware may make more sense when:

- A lock is damaged, loose or hard to operate.
- The previous tenant's hardware does not suit how you will use the space.
- You want different staff to have different access, which points toward a planned master key system.
- You are adding a keypad or other keyless entry for convenience.

If a door slams, drags or fails to latch, mention that too. A new key does not fix a door closer or a misaligned strike, and those issues are easier to address before you open to customers.

Coordinate It With Your Move-In

Schedule the lock 1ST L.S. Locksmith work after the last contractors who need regular access are done, or plan to issue them temporary keys and collect them. Otherwise, you may end up rekeying twice.

When you call, tell us the address, how many doors are involved, the type of doors if you know them and who will meet the technician. Our technician checks the cylinders, the latches and how each door swings, then lays out the plan and the cost so you can approve it first. Every changed lock is tried with its new key, and the finished set is handed to the person you named as your contact.

Then decide who gets what. A manager may need every door. A part-time employee may only need the front entrance. Start a key log on day one: each holder's name, the doors their key covers and the day they received it. It costs nothing and saves real headaches later.

We take calls 24/7, so planning the key change can fit around a busy build-out. Opening day should be about customers, not about wondering who else has a key to your back door. Reach out to 1ST L.S. Locksmith, 1580 Centinela Ave #7, Inglewood, CA 90302, (310) 430-1030, with your new address and move-in date, and we will help you plan the change.