

Your August Smart Lock

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 Install the free August or Yale Access app and make an account.
- 2 Mount the lock over your inside deadbolt and let it calibrate.
- 3 Stick on DoorSense and connect to 2.4 gigahertz Wi-Fi.
- 4 Turn on auto-lock, and auto-unlock if you want it.
- 5 Invite guests or add the keypad for codes.
- 6 Call Bill at (330) 200-8042 to set it all up for you.

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Your August Smart Lock — A Plain-English Guide

The lock that bolts onto the inside of your existing deadbolt — and keeps your key.

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1872 · SMART LOCKS —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

The August smart lock, now part of the Yale family, is the clever one that does not replace your lock. It fits over the inside of your existing deadbolt, so the outside of your door looks the same and your old keys still work. You twist it by hand, by phone, or let it lock and unlock on its own.

- It mounts inside, over your current deadbolt, with no change to the outside.
- Your existing keys keep working exactly as before.
- Everything is run from the free August app, or the Yale Access app.
- The newer Wi-Fi models connect on their own, with no separate bridge box.

GOOD TO KNOW

Because it keeps your existing key and screws on in minutes, the August lock is the one I most often suggest for renters. You can take it with you when you move and put the original deadbolt knob back.

I install and set these up for Portage County families all the time, and I am glad to do yours. If you would rather have it handled start to finish, call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

1. What an August smart lock really is

The one that keeps your key.

Most smart locks ask you to rip out your whole deadbolt and bolt in a new one, keypad and all. The August lock takes a gentler path. It is what people call a retrofit lock: it fits over the inside half of the deadbolt you already have, grips the little thumb-turn, and turns it for you. From the hallway outside, your door looks completely unchanged.

- It attaches to the inside of your door, over your existing deadbolt.
- The outside of the door is untouched, so your keyhole and key still work.
- It turns the thumb-turn for you, by motor, on command.
- Installation is a few screws and takes most people around ten minutes.

GOOD TO KNOW

August was one of the first companies to make a retrofit smart lock, and it is now owned by Yale, a lock name trusted for well over a century. The app you use may be called August or Yale Access depending on your model.

This design is why so many people reach for August. You are not giving up the lock and key you trust; you are adding brains to it. If the battery ever dies or you simply prefer your key, the key still slides into the same hole it always did. Nothing about your old way of getting in is taken away.

In this guide I will walk you through the whole thing in plain English, from the box on your table to a lock that greets you at the door. I will explain each setting the way I would at your kitchen table, so you and your family can run it with confidence.

2. Why renters and movers love it

Nothing permanent, nothing to patch.

If you rent your home, most smart locks are off the table, because a landlord does not want you swapping out hardware. The August lock sidesteps that neatly. You never touch the outside of the door, you never change the lock the landlord gave you, and you leave no holes to patch when you leave. You simply add a unit on the inside and take it off later.

- No change to the landlord's deadbolt or the outside of the door.
- No new holes drilled; it uses the mounting the deadbolt already has.
- You can remove it and restore the original thumb-turn in minutes.
- It travels with you to your next home.

TIP

Keep the original interior thumb-turn piece and screws in a labeled bag when you install the August. When you move, you put that piece back and no one is the wiser.

This same quality makes it a kind choice for an older parent in an apartment or a senior community, where management controls the front door hardware. You add convenience and remote help for the family without asking anyone's permission to alter the door. That is a real advantage I point out often.

It is also friendly for anyone who simply does not want a construction project. There is no heavy new keypad bolted through the door, no fuss with the strike plate, and no trip to return the old lock. You are adding a helper, not replacing the whole works, and that keeps the whole thing low-stress.

3. The August and Yale lineup

Which model is which.

August has made several versions over the years, and since Yale now owns the brand you will see both names. They all work in the same basic way; the differences are mostly about how they get online and how they are powered. Do not feel you must memorize the models, but it helps to recognize the names you will see.

- August Wi-Fi Smart Lock: the slimmer, newer unit with Wi-Fi built in.
- Older August Smart Lock and Smart Lock Pro: needed a small bridge box to reach the internet.
- Yale-branded versions: the same retrofit idea, sold under the Yale name.
- A separate keypad accessory can be added so guests use a code instead of a phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

The big dividing line is whether Wi-Fi is built in. The newer Wi-Fi Smart Lock connects by itself. Older models needed a separate plug-in bridge called August Connect to be reached from away.

If you are buying fresh, I steer most folks to the model with Wi-Fi built in, because it is one less box to plug in and one less thing to go wrong. If you already own an older August with the little Connect bridge, that is perfectly fine; it just means the bridge stays plugged into an outlet near the door.

August refreshes its lineup from time to time and finishes come and go, so the exact model on the shelf may shift. The reassuring part is that the way you live with the lock does not change. Everything in this guide applies across the August and Yale retrofit locks, whichever one ends up on your door.

4. Will it fit your deadbolt?

A quick check before you buy.

Before anything else, make sure your door has the kind of deadbolt the August fits. It is designed for a standard single-cylinder deadbolt, which is the common kind with a key on the outside and a thumb-turn you twist on the inside. The great majority of homes have exactly this. A few older or fancier doors do not, and it is worth knowing in advance.

- Works with a standard single-cylinder deadbolt: key outside, thumb-turn inside.
- Does not fit mortise locks, rim locks, or locks built into the handle.

- Needs a thumb-turn it can grip and turn on the inside.
- August offers a fit checker on its website if you are unsure.

WATCH OUT

If both sides of your deadbolt take a key, with no thumb-turn to twist inside, the August cannot grip it. That double-key style is less common but does exist, especially near glass doors.

The easy test is to look at the inside of your door. If you see a small lever or knob you turn by hand to throw the bolt, you are almost certainly in good shape. If instead you see a keyhole on the inside too, the August is not the right lock, and I would point you to a different style.

When in doubt, send me a photo of the inside of your door before you buy anything. After thirty years of this work I can tell at a glance whether an August will fit, and it saves you the bother of ordering the wrong thing and sending it back. A one-minute look spares a lot of hassle.

5. What comes in the box

Opening it up.

August packs the box sensibly, with everything you need to mount the lock and nothing you do not. Before you start, lay the pieces out on a table so you can see what you have. There is no need for a locksmith and usually no tool beyond the small ones included, so it is a calm job you can do at your own pace.

- The lock unit itself, which holds the motor and batteries.
- A DoorSense sensor, a small piece that tells the lock if the door is open or shut.
- Batteries, commonly the small CR123 photo type, often included.
- An adapter and mounting plate to grip your particular thumb-turn.

WATCH OUT

Set the box and its paper aside until the lock is fully installed and working. It is the easiest place to keep the little adapter pieces you do not end up using, in case your thumb-turn ever changes.

The adapter pieces are worth a closer look. August includes a few sizes so the lock can grip different brands of thumb-turn snugly. You pick the one that fits yours. The printed guide shows which is which, and it is simply a matter of trying the one that matches and

making sure it holds firmly.

The DoorSense sensor is the one piece people overlook, and it is worth installing. It is a small magnet-style sensor that sticks to the door frame and lets the lock know whether the door is actually closed. That little part unlocks some of the lock's smartest tricks, which we will come to shortly.

6. Getting the app

The lock's real control panel.

The August app is the brain of the whole setup. It is free, it lives on your phone, and it is how you install the lock, lock and unlock it, hand out guest access, and change every setting. Depending on your model, the app may be called the August app or Yale Access; both do the same job. If you have ever installed any app, this will feel familiar.

- 1 On an iPhone, open the App Store; on an Android phone, open the Google Play Store.
- 2 Search for the August app, or Yale Access if your lock uses that one.
- 3 Tap to install it, entering your account password or fingerprint if asked.
- 4 Open the app and create an account with your name, email, and a password.

GOOD TO KNOW

The app is free and there is no subscription to use your lock's everyday features. Your account is what ties the lock to you, so choose a strong password you will remember but others would not guess.

When you first open the app it will ask to use your phone's Bluetooth, and you should allow it. Bluetooth is how your phone talks to the lock up close, which is what makes the lock open as you walk up to the door. Without that permission, the handiest features simply will not work, so say yes when asked.

If you are setting the lock up for a parent, you can create and hold the account yourself and add them as a user, or set it up in their name. Either way, the app on a phone is what runs the lock from here on, and whoever holds the main account is the one in charge of guests and settings.

7. Installing the lock on your door

A few screws, ten minutes.

Mounting the August is the one hands-on part, and it is gentler than it sounds. You remove the inside thumb-turn piece from your existing deadbolt, fit August's mounting plate in its place, snap on the adapter that grips your bolt, and clip the lock body on. The key hole on the outside is never touched. Most people finish in about ten minutes.

- 1 Unscrew and remove the inside thumb-turn of your deadbolt, keeping its screws.
- 2 Attach August's mounting plate using the same screw holes.
- 3 Fit the adapter that matches your thumb-turn so the lock can grip the bolt.
- 4 Clip the August lock body onto the plate until it seats firmly.

TIP

Keep the original thumb-turn and its screws in a small labeled bag. If you ever move or return to the plain lock, you simply reverse these steps and put that piece back.

The app walks you through this with pictures, and it is worth following along on screen rather than guessing. It even has you calibrate the lock at the end, which just means it turns the bolt a few times on its own to learn exactly how far locked and unlocked are. Let it do that with the door open.

Take your time and make sure the lock body is seated snugly and square, not cocked at an angle. A loose or crooked mount is the single most common cause of a lock that struggles to turn the bolt. When it is on firmly and has calibrated, give the bolt a test throw from the app before you trust it.

8. Setting up DoorSense

Teaching the lock if the door is open.

DoorSense is the small sensor in the box, and it is the piece that lets your lock tell the difference between a door that is merely bolted and one that is actually shut. You stick it to the door frame, lined up with a mark on the lock, and from then on the app can tell you plainly: door closed and locked, or door open. It is a quietly powerful little part.

- 1 Find the spot on the frame the app and the lock markings point you to.
- 2 Peel and stick the DoorSense sensor there, lined up with the lock.
- 3 In the app, follow the prompt to calibrate DoorSense by opening and closing the door.
- 4 Confirm the app now shows the door as open or closed correctly.

GOOD TO KNOW

Without DoorSense, the lock still works, but it cannot know whether the door is truly shut. With it, you get a clear closed-and-locked status and the safest kind of auto-lock.

This matters more than it first appears. A deadbolt can be thrown while the door is actually standing open a crack, which locks nothing. DoorSense catches exactly that, so a glance at your phone tells you not just that the bolt turned but that the door is genuinely closed and secure. For peace of mind from the armchair, it is lovely.

It also makes auto-lock smarter, because the lock can wait until the door is really shut before it bolts, rather than firing on a timer and jamming against an open door. If you skip DoorSense at first, you can always add it later; I usually suggest putting it on from the start.

9. Connecting to Wi-Fi

Reaching the lock from anywhere.

Up close, your phone talks to the lock over Bluetooth with no internet needed at all. To check or control the lock from away, though, it needs to reach the internet through your home Wi-Fi. On the newer Wi-Fi Smart Lock this is built in. On older models, a small plug-in bridge called August Connect does the same job from a nearby outlet.

- 1 In the app, open your lock's settings and choose to set up Wi-Fi.
- 2 Pick your home network from the list the app shows.
- 3 Carefully type the Wi-Fi password, minding capital letters.
- 4 Wait for the app to confirm the lock is online.

WATCH OUT

August locks join the common 2.4 gigahertz kind of Wi-Fi. If your home network has separate names for its faster and slower bands, pick the one that is not labeled 5G.

The lock sits on a metal door, often at the far end of the house from the router, so signal can be a factor. If it struggles to connect or keeps dropping offline, the fix is usually to improve Wi-Fi near the door. In a larger Streetsboro or Hudson home, a mesh Wi-Fi point in the hall can make all the difference.

The most common snag here is simply a mistyped Wi-Fi password, since the little letters are easy to get wrong. Take your time and double-check it. Once the lock is online, you can lock, unlock, and check its status from your recliner or from another town entirely, which is where the remote help for family comes in.

10. Locking and unlocking day to day

Phone, hand, or key.

Once set up, you have several easy ways to work the lock, and you can mix them however suits you. The lock never takes away the old ways; it only adds new ones. Many people use their phone at the door, their hand indoors, and keep the physical key as a comfortable backup for when the phone is dead or forgotten.

- Tap the big lock button in the app to lock or unlock from anywhere.
- Twist the lock body by hand indoors, just like the old thumb-turn.
- Use your original key from outside, exactly as before.
- Add the optional keypad accessory so guests can punch in a code.

TIP

The round lock body still turns by hand. If a guest or a grandchild is standing inside and wants to lock up, they just twist it; no phone or app needed.

Inside the app, a large button shows the lock's current state and flips it with one tap. There is no hunting through menus for the everyday action. For an older user, that single clear button is a comfort: green and open, or locked and secure, with nothing to puzzle over.

If you want hands-free convenience, the lock offers auto-unlock and auto-lock, which we cover next. But even without those, the simple act of tapping your phone as you reach the door, or twisting the knob on your way out, is a gentle upgrade over fishing for keys with your hands full of groceries.

11. Auto-Lock so you never wonder

It bolts the door for you.

Auto-lock is the feature that ends the little worry of whether you locked the door. You tell the lock to bolt itself, and it does, so you are never halfway to Ravenna wondering. There are two ways it can trigger, and with DoorSense installed you get the smarter of the two.

- On a timer: the lock bolts itself a set number of minutes after it was unlocked.
- When the door closes: with DoorSense, it bolts right after the door shuts.
- You choose the delay that suits your routine.
- You can turn it off entirely if you prefer to lock by hand.

GOOD TO KNOW

With DoorSense, auto-lock can wait until the door is truly closed before bolting. That avoids the bolt firing into an open door, which is why I like DoorSense installed first.

For most people I suggest the close-the-door setting if they have DoorSense, because it locks exactly when you would want it to and never too soon. If you do not have DoorSense, a gentle timer of a minute or two works well: long enough to carry the groceries in, short enough that the door never sits unlocked for long.

This is one of those features that quietly changes your day. The door simply takes care of itself. For a family member watching over a parent from afar, knowing the door reliably locks itself after every coming and going is a steady, real comfort, and it removes a task the person at home no longer has to remember.

12. Auto-Unlock as you walk up

The door that knows you are home.

Auto-unlock is the feature that feels like magic the first time. As you come home and approach your door with your phone in your pocket, the lock senses you and unlocks itself, so you walk right in with your arms full. It uses your phone's location and Bluetooth together, which is why the app asked for those permissions.

- Your phone notices when you have left and later returned home.
- As you come within Bluetooth range of the door, the lock unlocks.
- You walk in without touching phone, key, or knob.
- It only triggers on your return, not every time you pass the door inside.

TIP

Give auto-unlock a few days to learn your comings and goings. It works best once it has settled in, and it needs location permission set to always, not just while using the app.

A word of honesty: auto-unlock is wonderful when it works, and occasionally finicky, because it depends on your phone's location being accurate. If it ever unlocks too early or not quite at the door, that is usually a location-permission setting on the phone. It is not a security hole; it simply needs the phone's blessing to see where you are.

For some folks, especially those who worry about the door unlocking on its own, I suggest leaving auto-unlock off and using the simple tap-to-unlock instead. There is no wrong answer. The lock is just as capable either way, and you should run it in whatever way lets

you feel settled about your front door.

13. Guest access and codes

Letting people in without a key.

One of the best things an August lock does is let you give someone access without handing over a key. From the app you invite a guest, and they get their own access on their own phone. If you add the optional keypad accessory outside, you can instead give a numbered code, which is perfect for anyone who does not have a smartphone.

- Invite a guest in the app; they install it and get their own access.
- Set their access to always, to a schedule, or to a single window of time.
- With the keypad accessory, hand out a numeric code instead.
- See in the activity feed exactly who locked or unlocked, and when.

GOOD TO KNOW

A guest's access is separate from yours, so you can remove one person without disturbing anyone else. That is far safer than sharing one key that gets copied and lost track of.

This is a gift for anyone being looked after at home. A home-health aide who visits on weekday mornings can have a code that only works those hours. A daughter in Aurora can have standing access. A dog walker can have a code just for the afternoons. You decide the exact when and who, and you can change it in seconds.

If you expect to hand out codes to people without the app, the keypad accessory is well worth adding. It sticks outside near the door and lets a visitor punch in their number to get in. For a fuller walk-through of codes for caregivers and guests, I have separate guides, and I am glad to set these up with you.

14. The activity feed and alerts

Knowing what is happening at the door.

The app keeps a tidy log of everything the lock does, called the activity feed. Every lock, unlock, and who did it shows up in a running list, newest at the top. Alongside it, you can turn on notifications so your phone gently tells you when the door opens. Together they give you a quiet, steady awareness of your own front door.

- See a running list of every lock and unlock, with names and times.

- Turn on a phone notification when the door is unlocked or left open.
- Spot a guest or aide arriving right on your phone.
- Get nudged if the door is left ajar, when DoorSense is installed.

TIP

If the notifications feel like too many, you can trim them to only the ones you care about, like the door being left open. You are in full control of how chatty it is.

For a family keeping a caring eye on a parent, the activity feed is reassuring without being intrusive. A glance confirms that Mom's aide came and went at the usual time, or that the door has stayed locked all afternoon. It is awareness, not surveillance, and the person at home controls who can see it.

The left-ajar alert deserves a mention. With DoorSense on, the lock can warn you if the door has been standing open for a while, which catches the common slip of a door that did not latch. On a cold Ohio night, that nudge to go close the door properly can save a lot of lost heat.

15. Working with Apple Home, Alexa, and Google

Voice and your other devices.

The August lock plays nicely with the big home systems, so it can join whatever you already use. You can ask Alexa or Google to lock the door or tell you if it is locked, and many models work with Apple Home too. This lets the lock become one piece of a larger, voice-friendly home rather than an island on its own.

- Ask Alexa or Google Assistant to lock the door or check its status.
- Many August locks connect to Apple Home for iPhone users.
- Voice unlocking usually requires a spoken code for safety.
- It can team up with other smart-home gear you already own.

GOOD TO KNOW

For safety, unlocking by voice almost always requires a spoken PIN, while locking and checking status do not. That way a passerby cannot simply shout your door open.

Which systems your particular lock supports can vary by model, so it is worth checking in the app under the works-with or integrations area. If you are an iPhone household leaning on Apple Home, confirm your model supports it before you count on it. I can tell you quickly which features your exact lock offers.

For an older user, the voice side can be genuinely helpful. Asking a nearby speaker whether the front door is locked, from the comfort of a chair, beats getting up to check. Just set it up thoughtfully, so unlocking always needs that spoken code, and the convenience never comes at the cost of security.

16. Built-in Wi-Fi versus the old bridge

Understanding how yours gets online.

It is worth understanding how your particular August reaches the internet, because it shapes what you plug in. The newer Wi-Fi Smart Lock has Wi-Fi built right into the lock on your door. Older August locks did not; they relied on a small plug-in box called August Connect, sitting in a nearby outlet, to pass messages between the lock and your Wi-Fi.

- Wi-Fi Smart Lock: Wi-Fi is inside the lock; nothing else to plug in.
- Older models: a separate August Connect bridge in a nearby outlet.
- Either way, up-close control over Bluetooth needs no internet at all.
- Remote control from away needs the lock to be online, by whichever method.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you own an older model with the Connect bridge, keep that little box plugged in and within range of the door. If it is unplugged, you lose the ability to reach the lock from away.

The built-in approach is simpler and is why I favor the newer lock for new buyers. There is one less gadget, one less thing to accidentally unplug when you rearrange a room. The bridge approach works fine too; it just asks you to remember that the bridge is part of the system and must stay powered and nearby.

Either way, the thing to hold onto is this: Bluetooth handles the door when your phone is right there, and the internet connection handles everything from a distance. If your remote features stop working but the lock still obeys you standing at the door, the culprit is almost always the internet side, not the lock itself.

17. Batteries and Ohio winters

Keeping it powered through the cold.

The August lock runs on batteries tucked inside the unit on your door, commonly the small CR123 photo type on the Wi-Fi model. How long they last depends on how much you use the lock and how it connects, but you are generally looking at months, not weeks. The app keeps an eye on the level and warns you well before they run down.

- The lock runs on internal batteries, often the CR123 photo type.
- The app shows the battery level and warns you as it gets low.
- Keep a spare set in a kitchen drawer so a swap is quick.
- Cold Ohio weather can make a tired battery read lower than it is.

WATCH OUT

Because this lock sits indoors, the cold reaches it less than an outdoor keypad. Still, in a drafty Mogadore mudroom a weak battery will show its age faster in winter, so do not ignore a low-battery warning in the cold months.

The good news about a retrofit lock is that the batteries live on the warm inside of your door, not out in the weather. That is gentler on them than a keypad lock exposed to the elements. Even so, batteries weaken in the cold, so when the app nudges you in January, change them promptly rather than stretching them.

Changing them is simple: the lock body opens or slides to reveal the battery compartment, and fresh cells go in the same way. The lock keeps all your settings and guests through a battery change. And remember, your physical key always works, so even a fully dead lock never leaves you standing outside in the cold.

18. Your key is still your backup

Why this lock is reassuring.

Here is the point I come back to with nervous first-timers: because the August leaves your existing deadbolt in place, your original key never stops working. The outside keyhole is untouched. No matter what happens with batteries, Wi-Fi, or phones, you can always let yourself in the old-fashioned way. That safety net is a big reason I trust this lock for older users.

- The outside keyhole is never altered by the August.
- Your original key opens the door exactly as it always has.

- A dead battery or dead phone never locks you out.
- Keep a spare key where you have always kept one, as a backstop.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many all-in-one smart locks replace the keyhole with a keypad, so a dead battery is a real worry. The August keeps the key, which is precisely why it is such a gentle first smart lock.

For someone who has spent a lifetime with keys, this matters. The smart features are an addition, not a replacement, and the familiar key in the pocket stays a true backup. There is no leap of faith required; if the technology ever hiccups, the door still opens the way it has for decades.

I do suggest keeping a spare key somewhere sensible, as you would with any door, so a family member can get in if needed. A trusted neighbor in your Tallmadge or Kent neighborhood, or a lockbox, works well. The smart lock gives you new ways in; the humble key remains the one that never needs a battery.

19. When it will not connect

The usual Wi-Fi and Bluetooth fixes.

The most common hiccup with any connected lock is the connection, and the August is no exception. If the lock stops responding from away or the app cannot find it up close, it is almost always one of a few simple things. Run through these before you worry, because the fix is usually quick and dull.

- Make sure your phone's Bluetooth is turned on for up-close control.
- Re-enter the Wi-Fi password carefully; a mistyped one is the top cause.
- Confirm you chose the 2.4 gigahertz network, not a 5G-labeled one.
- Check that your home internet is working, since the lock rides on it.

TIP

Closing the app fully and reopening it clears up a surprising number of up-close troubles. Try that before assuming anything is actually wrong with the lock.

If the lock works when you are standing at the door but not from away, the problem is the internet side, not the lock. Check that your home Wi-Fi is up, that the Wi-Fi Smart Lock shows online in the app, and, on older models, that the Connect bridge is plugged in and nearby. That narrows it down fast.

If you have tried all of this and it still will not cooperate, that is a quick one for me. Often I can sort it on a remote screen-share, working in the app with you, without even coming out. Wi-Fi gremlins on a metal door are familiar territory after thirty years of this work.

20. When the bolt sticks or struggles

Calibration and alignment fixes.

If the lock whirs but struggles to throw the bolt, or complains that it is jammed, the cause is almost always mechanical rather than electronic. A retrofit lock can only turn the bolt as freely as the bolt itself moves. So the fixes are the same ones a good handyman would reach for with any sticky deadbolt, plus a quick recalibration.

- With the door open, turn the bolt by hand; it should move freely.
- If it binds only when the door is shut, the strike plate needs aligning.
- Make sure the August body is seated firmly and squarely on its plate.
- Re-run calibration in the app so the lock relearns the bolt's travel.

WATCH OUT

A door that has swollen or settled over the years can bind the bolt against the frame. If the bolt moves freely with the door open but fights when closed, the strike plate, not the lock, is the thing to adjust.

Start with the door open and simply feel the bolt by hand. If it glides, the lock has an easy job and any struggle points to the door being out of alignment when shut. Loosening the strike plate screws and nudging it so the bolt drops cleanly into its hole fixes a great many of these, and fresh batteries give the motor full strength.

If the lock sits crooked or loose on its plate, it cannot grip the bolt squarely and will strain. Reseat it firmly and re-run the calibration so it learns the travel again. If the door itself has sagged over an Ohio winter or two, that is a small carpentry fix I am happy to handle on a visit.

21. Keeping it secure and private

A little care goes a long way.

A smart lock holds the keys to your home in a new sense, so it is worth a few sensible habits. None of this is complicated, and most of it is the same good practice you would use for any account that matters. Keep the account tight and the guest list tidy, and the lock stays firmly within your control.

- Use a strong password on your August account and do not reuse it elsewhere.
- Invite guests as their own users rather than sharing your login.
- Remove a guest's access the moment they no longer need it.
- Keep your phone itself locked with a passcode or fingerprint.

TIP

Turn on the extra sign-in security the app offers, where a code is texted to you when you log in. It keeps your lock account yours even if your password ever leaks.

On privacy, the lock does keep a log of comings and goings, which is useful for a family keeping a caring eye out, but it is worth being thoughtful about who can see it. Only people you invite can view the activity, and you decide what each person is allowed to do. Share that access deliberately, with the person at home comfortable with it.

The physical side matters too. Keep the app updated so the lock has the latest fixes, and if you ever give up the lock or move, remove it from your account so it is fully yours no longer. These small steps keep the convenience of a smart lock from ever becoming a worry.

22. Is an August lock right for you?

My honest take.

Let me give you my honest read on where the August shines and where another lock might suit you better. I would rather you have the right lock than be sold the wrong one. For most people who want smart features without giving up their key, and especially for renters, the August is an easy recommendation.

- Great fit: you rent, or you want to keep your existing key and deadbolt.
- Great fit: you want a tidy install with nothing changed on the outside.
- Consider other options: you want a lit outdoor keypad built into the lock itself.
- Consider other options: your door has a double-key or mortise lock the August cannot fit.

GOOD TO KNOW

August's strengths are the keep-your-key design and the easy, reversible install. Where it is not the answer is usually a door it cannot fit, or a wish for a big outdoor keypad as the main way in.

If you truly want a keypad as your main entry, with no phone at all, a full replacement lock with a built-in keypad may suit you better, and I will tell you so plainly. The August can add a keypad accessory, but the keypad is the heart of some other locks. For keeping your key and adding brains, though, August is hard to beat.

The reversible, renter-friendly nature tips many families toward August once they realize nothing about the door has to change. You add convenience and remote help for a loved one, and you can undo it all in minutes. For a gentle, trustworthy first smart lock, I am glad to recommend it, and glad to set yours up.

23. When to Call Bill

Installed, explained, and running smoothly.

You can install an August lock yourself, and the app makes it about as friendly as these things get. Where I help is getting it right the first time: the correct adapter for your bolt, DoorSense placed well, the Wi-Fi solid on a metal door, the guest codes set up, and the whole thing explained in plain words so you and your family run it with confidence. I have been doing hands-on tech work for more than thirty years.

- Not sure it fits your deadbolt: send a photo and I will tell you straight.
- Want it installed, calibrated, and the family set up: I handle the whole job.
- Lock will not connect or auto-unlock is misbehaving: often a quick remote fix.
- Bolt sticks when the door is shut: a small alignment fix I am glad to do.

GOOD TO KNOW

My first visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars. A remote screen-share to set up or fix a lock is forty-nine dollars. My Support Plan is thirty-nine dollars a month, and it includes keeping your lock online and your codes working all year.

I serve Atwater, Ravenna, Kent, Streetsboro, Aurora, Hudson, Stow, Mogadore, Tallmadge, and the rest of Portage County. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or email bill@billshometech.com. If I am on a job, my booking assistant Sophie can get you scheduled.

If I have helped make your front door easier and safer, a quick review means the world to a local one-man shop. You can leave one at g.page/r/CSFv0jbCfFINEAE/review. Thank you, and take care.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

The quick reference for your August smart lock. Keep it handy.

- The lock mounts inside; your key and the outside of the door are unchanged.
 - Everything is run from the free August app, or the Yale Access app.
 - Up close, your phone uses Bluetooth; from away, the lock uses Wi-Fi.
 - Auto-lock bolts the door for you; auto-unlock opens it as you walk up.
 - Your original key always works, even with a dead battery.
- 1 Install the app and make an account.
 - 2 Mount the lock over your deadbolt and let it calibrate.
 - 3 Stick on DoorSense and connect to 2.4 gigahertz Wi-Fi.
 - 4 Set auto-lock and, if you like, auto-unlock.
 - 5 Invite guests or hand out codes as needed.

TIP

If remote control stops but the lock still obeys you at the door, the trouble is the internet side, not the lock. Check your Wi-Fi first.

WORDS TO KNOW

Plain-English Word List

Retrofit lock — A smart lock that mounts over your existing deadbolt instead of replacing it, keeping your key.

August app / Yale Access — The free phone app that runs the lock: setup, locking, guests, and every setting.

DoorSense — A small sensor that tells the lock whether the door is truly open or closed, not just bolted.

Auto-Lock — The setting that bolts the door for you, either on a timer or once the door closes.

Auto-Unlock — The feature that unlocks the door as you approach home with your phone.

Calibration — The lock turning the bolt a few times to learn exactly how far locked and unlocked are.

August Connect — The small plug-in bridge older models needed to reach the internet; newer locks have Wi-Fi built in.

Bluetooth — The short-range link your phone uses to control the lock when you are right at the door, with no internet needed.

2.4 gigahertz Wi-Fi — The common, longer-range kind of home Wi-Fi that August locks connect to.

Keypad accessory — An optional outdoor pad that lets guests enter a numeric code instead of using a phone.

Activity feed — The running log in the app of every lock and unlock, with who and when.

Single-cylinder deadbolt — The common deadbolt with a key outside and a thumb-turn inside, which the August fits.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Setting up an August lock

From box to a smart door

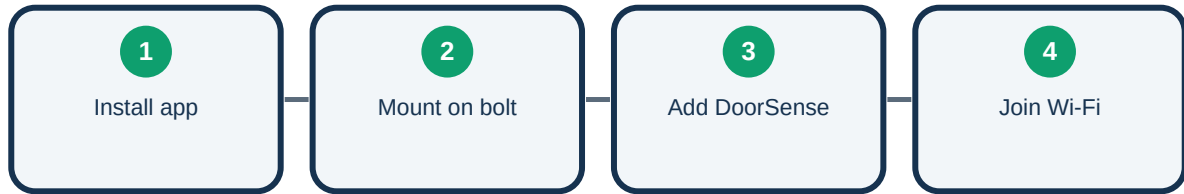
**The whole setup runs through the free August or Yale Access app.**

Illustration — a schematic; details vary by device and setup.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Three ways to open

The lock adds ways, never removes one

New ways in	The old way stays
• Tap to unlock in the app • Auto-unlock as you walk up • A code on the keypad accessory • A guest's own phone access	• Your original outside key • The thumb-turn by hand inside • Works with a dead battery • Works with no internet

Your key is always the backup, so a dead battery never locks you out.

Illustration — a schematic; details vary by device and setup.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.