

The Level Lock

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 Measure your deadbolt and check it turns smoothly by hand.
- 2 Pick Level Bolt to keep your hardware, or Lock Plus for the Apple tap.
- 3 Install the hidden mechanism and align the bolt with the strike.
- 4 Set up the app, pair your phone, and hand out keycards.
- 5 Turn on auto-lock and keep a spare CR2 and a spare key handy.
- 6 Call Bill at (330) 200-8042 if you want it done right.

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The Level Lock — The Smart Lock Hidden in Your Door

All the smarts fit inside the deadbolt — your door looks exactly the same outside.

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1876 · SMART LOCKS —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Level took the opposite road from every other smart lock. Instead of a chunky keypad bolted to your door, Level tucks all the electronics inside the deadbolt itself. From the street and from your hallway, it looks like an ordinary, handsome lock. Nobody can tell it is smart, which is the whole point.

- The Level Bolt hides fully inside the door and keeps your existing handle and key.
- The Level Lock and Level Lock+ replace the visible hardware but still look like a normal deadbolt.
- You open it by phone app, by a tap-in keycard, by your key, and on the Level Lock+ by tapping an iPhone or Apple Watch.
- There is no number keypad on the lock itself, though Level sells a separate keypad you can add.

GOOD TO KNOW

Level is for the person who wants smart entry without a single bit of it showing. It is beautiful and discreet. The trade is that opening it leans on a phone, a card, or a key rather than punching a code at the door.

If you love the clean look but worry about the day-to-day of a no-keypad lock, that is exactly the conversation I have at the kitchen table. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

1. The smart lock hidden in your door

Smart on the inside, plain on the outside.

Most smart locks announce themselves. They put a glowing keypad or a fingerprint pad right on your front door for everyone to see. Level went the other way entirely. It shrank all the smart parts down small enough to live inside the deadbolt, hidden in the bore of your door, where no one can see them.

The result is a lock that looks completely ordinary. A visitor sees a tidy deadbolt and a normal keyhole. They have no idea a motor and a radio are tucked inside, quietly waiting for your phone or your card. For folks who care how their front door looks, or who do not want to advertise that they have a smart lock, this is the one.

- All the electronics, the motor, and the battery live inside the deadbolt.
- From outside and inside, it looks like a plain, good-quality lock.

- It is built to a high hardware grade, carrying the top AAA mark for security and durability.
- Because nothing shows, nobody can tell at a glance that it is smart.

WATCH OUT

If the clean look of your entry matters to you, or you are in a historic or decorative door you do not want to change, Level is the lock to look at first. Nothing else disappears this completely.

My honest take is that Level is a specialist, not a jack-of-all-trades. It does the invisible thing better than anyone. Whether that is the right trade for you comes down to how you like to open your door, which is what the rest of this guide sorts out.

2. The Level family, sorted out

Bolt, Lock, and Lock Plus.

Level makes a small, focused lineup, which I appreciate. There is no alphabet soup here, just a few models built around the same hidden idea. Let me lay them out plainly.

- Level Bolt: the most hidden of all. It swaps only the inner guts of your deadbolt and keeps your existing handle, trim, and key. From both sides, your door looks utterly unchanged.
- Level Lock: replaces the visible deadbolt hardware with Level's own, which still looks like a normal, clean deadbolt.
- Level Lock+: the same as the Level Lock but with Apple Home Key added, so an iPhone or Apple Watch can tap to open it.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Level Bolt is the pick when you love your current door hardware and want to keep it. The Level Lock and Lock Plus are the pick when you want Level's own clean hardware or you want the Apple tap-to-open feature.

All three share the same brain and the same Level Home app, so once you understand one, you understand them all. The difference is really about how much of your existing hardware you keep and whether you want the Apple Home Key tap.

The exact names and bundles shift over time, and Level sometimes sells the lock together with a keycard or the keypad accessory. The ideas here hold across the family. If you tell me which one you are eyeing, I will confirm it does what you expect before you buy.

3. How it hides in the door

Where the smarts actually live.

To understand Level, it helps to picture what is happening inside your door. A standard deadbolt has a hole bored through the edge of the door where the bolt mechanism sits. Level shrank its motor, its radio, and its battery small enough to fit inside that same space.

- The motor that throws the bolt lives inside the door edge.
- The battery, a single small cell, tucks in there too, hidden from view.
- The radio that talks to your phone is in there as well.
- Nothing hangs off the face of the door except ordinary-looking trim.

WATCH OUT

Because the motor is tucked inside the door, Level needs a deadbolt that already turns smoothly by hand. If your bolt sticks, drags, or you have to lift the door to turn it, we fix the door first. A small motor cannot force a bolt that already fights you.

This hidden design is clever, but it means the installation is a touch more involved than a lock that just bolts to the face of the door. The parts have to seat correctly inside the bore and line up with the strike in the frame. Done right, it is seamless. Done carelessly, the bolt can bind.

It also means the battery and the inner parts are not sitting out where you can see them. When I fit a Level, I always show you exactly where the battery hides and how to reach it, because a hidden battery you cannot find is no help on the day it needs changing.

4. How you actually unlock it

No keypad, so here are your options.

This is the chapter to read twice, because it is the heart of living with a Level. Since there is no number keypad on the lock, you open the door in one of several other ways. Knowing them upfront is how you decide whether Level fits your life.

- Your phone, through the Level Home app, from up close or from away.
- A tap-in keycard or key fob that you hold to the lock, which Level includes with it.
- Your physical key, the old-fashioned backup that needs no power.
- On the Level Lock+, an iPhone or Apple Watch tapped to the lock using Apple Home Key.

- An optional number keypad, sold separately, that you can add near the door if you want codes.

GOOD TO KNOW

Level also offers auto-unlock, where the lock senses your phone as you approach and opens the door for you, so you may not have to do anything at all when you arrive home.

For a tech-comfortable household that carries a phone everywhere, this spread of options is plenty, and the tap-in card is a nice touch for a grandchild or a guest. For someone who does not always carry a phone to the door and dislikes fumbling for a card, the lack of a built-in keypad is a real consideration.

That is the honest trade with Level. You gain an invisible, handsome lock, and you give up the punch-a-code simplicity that some folks love. If a keypad at the door is a must-have, I will tell you plainly that a different lock may suit you better, or that you will want the separate keypad accessory.

5. Apple Home Key on the Level Lock+

Tap your iPhone and walk in.

The headline feature of the Level Lock+ is Apple Home Key. It lets you hold your iPhone or Apple Watch near the lock, and the door opens, much like tapping your phone to pay at a store. The digital key lives safely in Apple Wallet on your device.

- Works by holding an iPhone or Apple Watch to the lock, using the short-range tap technology called NFC.
- The key is stored in Apple Wallet, so there is nothing extra to open; a tap does it.
- Apple's Express Mode lets it work with just a tap, without unlocking your phone first.
- You can share a key with family members right from your Apple devices.

TIP

Apple Home Key needs a reasonably recent Apple device. As a rule of thumb, a newer iPhone and Apple Watch on up-to-date software will work. If your devices are quite old, check that they support Home Key before you count on this feature.

For an iPhone household, this is genuinely delightful. You walk up, tap, and you are in, with your hands full of groceries and never a key or a code. An Apple Watch makes it even smoother, since the watch is always on your wrist.

If you carry an Android phone, Apple Home Key is not for you, and that is fine. You would open the Level with the Level Home app, the keycard, or your key instead. This one feature is the main reason to choose the Level Lock+ over the plain Level Lock, so it only matters if you are in Apple's world.

6. Keycards and key fobs

A tap-in for people without the app.

Level includes tap-in keycards or key fobs with the lock, and they are one of my favorite parts of the system. A keycard is a small card or fob you simply hold to the lock, and the door opens. There is no code to remember and no phone to fish out.

- The lock comes with a couple of NFC keycards or fobs, and you can buy more separately.
- You hold the card to the lock and it opens, the same simple motion every time.
- You add and remove cards in the Level Home app, so a lost card can be switched off.
- Cards are perfect for a grandchild, a guest, or anyone you would rather not put on the app.

GOOD TO KNOW

A keycard is a wonderful middle ground for a senior who finds the phone fiddly. Clip the fob to a keyring or lanyard, and opening the door becomes a single easy tap, no screens involved.

If a card is lost, you are not in trouble. You simply remove it in the app, and that card stops working, the same way you would cancel a lost credit card. You cannot do that with a copied metal key, which is a quiet security advantage.

I often set a Level up so the main household uses their phones or the Apple tap, and visitors or helpers each get a named keycard. That way everyone has an easy way in, and the lock history shows which card opened the door.

7. The physical key backup

The lock that still takes a key.

Unlike some keypad-only smart locks, the Level keeps a real keyhole and a real key. For a lot of my customers, that alone is a comfort. No matter what happens with batteries, phones, or Wi-Fi, a metal key in the slot still opens the door.

- Level keeps a traditional keyhole and comes with physical keys.
- The key works with no power at all, so a dead battery is never a true lockout.
- On the Level Bolt, your existing key and cylinder are kept, so keys you already have still work.
- Keep at least one key somewhere safe but reachable, not only inside the locked house.

WATCH OUT

Give a spare key to a trusted neighbor or keep one in a small lockbox you control. The whole point of a key backup is that it is there on the day the battery dies, so do not lock your only key inside.

This is one reason I am comfortable recommending Level to older customers who are nervous about going fully keyless. You get the clean, modern lock and the reassuring old-fashioned key together. You are never forced to trust the electronics alone.

On the Level Bolt in particular, because it keeps your original cylinder, every key your household already carries keeps working. That makes it a gentle upgrade, where you add smart features without taking away the familiar key everyone already has in their pocket.

8. The optional keypad accessory

Add a code pad if you want one.

If the no-keypad part of Level gives you pause, know that Level sells a separate number keypad you can add. It mounts near the door and lets you open the lock by punching in a code, which brings back the one thing the bare lock lacks.

- The keypad is a separate purchase, not built into the lock.
- It lets you open the lock with a four-to-six-digit code, like a traditional keypad lock.
- You manage the codes in the Level Home app, including guest codes.
- It mounts near the door, keeping the lock itself still clean and hidden.

GOOD TO KNOW

Adding the keypad is the move for a household that loves the hidden look of Level but still wants a punch-in code for the grandkids or a helper. You get the discreet lock and the familiar keypad, just as two pieces instead of one.

I often suggest the keypad for senior households that are drawn to Level's looks but worried about depending on a phone or a card. It is the best of both worlds, though it does add to the cost and puts a small pad back on or near the door, which slightly softens the invisible effect.

If you think you might want codes, tell me when we talk, because it can be easier to plan the keypad in from the start than to add it later. Either way, it is a legitimate way to make a Level work for a household that wants a code at the door.

9. The Level Home app

Where you run the lock.

The Level Home app is the control center for the lock. It is where you add people, hand out keycards and codes, check who came in, and change settings. You set it up once, then open it now and then to manage access.

- Add and remove people, keycards, and codes from the app.
- Share a digital key with a family member so they can use their own phone.
- Read a log of when the door was opened and by whom.
- Set guest access that works only for a set time, then expires on its own.

TIP

When you first set up the app, use an email you actually check and a password you can find again. A locked-out app account is a needless headache later, and I keep a written note of these for my customers.

Once it is running, you really only need a couple of screens: the one that shares a key or adds a card, and the one that shows the history. The rest you can leave alone. I show every Level customer just those screens so the app never feels overwhelming.

If the app updates and a button moves, which every app does from time to time, that is exactly what my forty-nine-dollar remote screen-share is for. I hop onto your screen, find the new button, and you are sorted in minutes without a house call.

10. Auto-lock and auto-unlock

The door that minds itself.

Two of Level's handiest features happen without you doing anything. Auto-lock relocks the door on its own after a set time, so you never leave it unlocked by mistake. Auto-unlock senses your phone as you approach and opens the door for you.

- Auto-lock relocks the door a chosen number of seconds after it was opened.
- Auto-unlock senses your phone over short-range Bluetooth and opens the door as you walk up.
- Both are turned on and tuned in the Level Home app.
- You can turn either one off if you would rather lock and unlock yourself.

GOOD TO KNOW

Auto-lock is the feature my customers thank me for most. If you have ever driven away wondering whether you locked the door, auto-lock quietly ends that worry for good.

Auto-unlock is lovely when it works, but it does lean on your phone and its Bluetooth, so it can be a little less consistent than a deliberate tap or key. I usually set it up and let you decide over a week or two whether you trust it or prefer to tap yourself in.

WATCH OUT

If you use auto-lock, make sure the door is fully closed and the bolt has clear travel into the frame. A door that does not shut snugly can have the bolt try to throw into the frame edge, which strains the motor. A proper strike alignment fixes this.

11. The single small battery

One hidden cell runs the lock.

Level runs on a single small battery, a lithium cell of the CR2 type, tucked inside the deadbolt. That one cell powers the motor and the radio. It is a different setup from the big keypad locks that take four AA batteries, so it is worth understanding.

- One CR2 lithium cell powers the whole lock, hidden inside the door.
- It is loaded in through a small cap, often a screw-down cover, on the lock body.
- Battery life is commonly rated around six months on the newer models, though use and cold shorten it.
- The app warns you well before the battery dies, so a swap is never a surprise.

TIP

Keep a spare CR2 cell in a drawer so a battery change is a two-minute job and not a trip to the store on a cold evening. The CR2 is a common camera-style battery, available at most stores that sell batteries.

Because there is only one small cell, Level tends to need its battery changed a bit more often than the big AA locks, and cold weather shortens it further. That is the trade for the compact, hidden design. It is not a flaw, just a thing to plan around, especially through an Ohio winter.

WATCH OUT

Do not ignore the low-battery warning in the app. With only one small cell and a hidden spot, you want to swap it the week you are warned, not the morning it quits. Your key is your backup if you ever do get caught.

12. Who the Level is right for

The happy match.

Level is a specialist, and it makes certain people very happy while being the wrong tool for others. Let me paint the picture of who should be excited about a Level, so you can see whether that is you.

- You care how your front door looks and do not want a visible keypad or pad.
- You carry an iPhone or Apple Watch and love the idea of tapping to enter.
- You are comfortable using a phone and an app, or happy to tap a keycard.
- You want to keep your existing door hardware and key, which the Level Bolt allows.
- You like the idea of a smart lock that nobody can even tell is smart.

GOOD TO KNOW

Renters and folks who do not want to change their door often love the Level Bolt, because it hides inside and keeps the original outside hardware and key completely unchanged.

If you nodded along to most of that list, Level is likely a joy for you. The invisible design, the Apple tap, and the tidy app come together into a lock that feels modern and looks timeless at the same time.

The clearest fit is the design-conscious iPhone household that wants smart entry without any of it showing. For that person, nothing else on the market quite matches what Level does.

13. Where Level falls short

The honest limits.

I would not be doing my job if I only told you the good parts. Level has real limits, and for some households they are dealbreakers. Here is my honest list, because knowing them before you buy saves disappointment.

- No built-in keypad, so a code at the door means buying the separate keypad accessory.
- Opening leans on a phone, a card, or a key, which does not suit someone who often arrives empty-handed.
- One small battery means more frequent changes than the big AA locks, and it hides inside the door.
- The hidden install is a bit fussier and needs a door and bolt that work smoothly.
- The Apple tap-to-open only helps iPhone and Apple Watch households.

WATCH OUT

If you are buying a smart lock mainly so an older parent can punch in a code at the door without a phone, the bare Level is not the right pick. Either add the keypad accessory or look at a keypad lock instead. I will steer you honestly.

None of these limits make Level a bad lock. They make it a specialized one. It is superb at being invisible and smooth for a phone-carrying household, and less suited to someone who wants the plain simplicity of a glowing keypad on the door.

The best lock is always the one that fits how you actually live, not the one with the cleanest looks or the most features. If Level does not fit, I would rather tell you now than sell you a lock you quietly fight with every day.

14. What install day looks like

From old deadbolt to hidden smarts.

Fitting a Level takes a bit more care than a face-mounted keypad lock, because the parts have to seat inside the door and line up just right. On a door in good shape it is still a tidy job, usually within an hour. Here is what I do.

- 1 I take off your existing deadbolt, or on a Level Bolt, just the inner workings, and check the bore and the door thickness.
- 2 I fit Level's hidden mechanism inside the door edge and seat the battery.

- 3 On the Level Lock or Lock Plus, I attach Level's own trim; on the Bolt, I reuse your existing hardware and key.
- 4 I align the bolt with the strike in the frame so it throws smoothly with no binding.
- 5 I set up the app, pair your phone, add keycards, and turn on auto-lock the way you like.

WATCH OUT

A Level will only be as smooth as the door it is in. If the door sags or the bolt drags, I fix that first. Forcing a hidden motor to fight a sticky bolt is the top cause of trouble later, and it is easily avoided.

Before I leave, I open the lock every way it works at least twice: the app, the keycard, the key, and the Apple tap if you have the Lock Plus. I want to see the bolt turn with my own eyes, not just trust the setup screen.

Then I show you where the hidden battery lives and how to change it, and I leave a simple card by the door with your access details and my number. The hidden design is lovely, but only if you know how to reach the one part that ever needs attention.

15. Letting guests and helpers in

Access without handing out a key.

One of the real pleasures of a Level is letting someone in without copying a key. Through the app, you can share a digital key, hand out a keycard, or set guest access that expires on its own after a chosen time.

- Share a digital key to a family member's phone so they can come and go.
- Give a visitor or helper their own named keycard that you can switch off later.
- Set guest access to work only for a window of time, then expire by itself.
- Read the history to see when each person opened the door.

TIP

Give every outside person their own card or digital key rather than sharing yours. Then the history shows exactly who came and when, and you can remove one person's access cleanly without changing anyone else's.

This is where a Level shines for a family looking after an older parent. A cleaner, a neighbor who checks in, or a home-health aide can each have a keycard or a time-limited key, with no hidden key under the mat and no re-keying when someone moves on.

If you add the separate keypad accessory, you can also hand out a numeric code, which some helpers find easiest of all. I cover the caregiving side in depth in my caregiver codes guide, and Level handles it cleanly within its app.

16. Level, Apple Home, and other systems

How it fits your other gadgets.

Level works especially nicely with Apple Home, which is where it feels most at home. It also supports the newer Matter standard on current models, which opens it up to other home apps. Let me keep this plain.

- Apple Home: the Level Lock+ supports Apple Home Key for tapping an iPhone or Apple Watch, and shows up in Apple's Home app.
- Matter: current Level models support Matter, the standard that lets gear from many brands share one home app.
- You do not need any of this for the lock to work; the Level Home app runs it all on its own.
- Through Matter, a Level can sit alongside other smart gear in one app over time.

GOOD TO KNOW

For most people who just want to lock the door and hand out a few cards, the Level Home app is all you ever need. Apple Home and Matter are bonuses for folks building a bigger connected home.

Level has leaned toward the Apple world from the start, so if you are an iPhone household, it is one of the smoothest locks you can own. The tap-to-open and the tie-in with Apple's Home app feel polished.

If you are not an Apple household, Level still works perfectly through its own app and the keycards. You simply would not use the Apple tap. Match the model to your phone, and if you are unsure, send me the details and I will confirm what fits.

17. Level through an Ohio winter

Cold, the battery, and the door.

Every smart lock has a harder time in deep cold, and Level is no exception, with a couple of wrinkles worth knowing for a Portage County winter. The main one is that single small battery, which cold weather drains faster than it does in summer.

- Cold shortens the life of the single CR2 cell, so winter is the season to watch the low-battery warning closely.
- A door and frame can shift slightly with the cold and damp, which can make the bolt drag if the fit was already tight.
- The Apple tap and the keycard still work fine in the cold, since they do not depend on a finger.
- Your physical key is the one method that never cares about the weather at all.

TIP

Change the battery in the fall before the cold sets in, and keep a spare CR2 in the house. A fresh cell going into winter gives you the best chance of sailing through without a surprise.

The good news is that Level avoids the one big winter headache of fingerprint locks, since there is no fingerprint pad to be fussy with a cold finger. The tap, the card, and the key all work regardless of temperature, which makes Level fairly winter-friendly as these things go.

If your door tends to swell or stick in damp Ohio weather, tell me, because I will make sure the bolt has enough clearance before I trust the motor to it. A little room at install time saves a bound bolt on a cold, damp night.

18. Privacy and where your data lives

A fair question, a plain answer.

People rightly ask what a smart lock knows about them. With Level, the honest answer is that it keeps a record of comings and goings, and that record lives in your Level account, protected by your password.

- The lock logs when the door was opened and by which key, card, or person.
- That history lives in the Level Home app, reached through your account.
- A Level has no camera and no microphone; it records times and access, not sound or pictures.

- Your account password is the gatekeeper, so a strong one matters.

GOOD TO KNOW

When you use the Level Lock+ with Apple Home Key, Apple is well known for keeping that kind of data private and on your devices. For privacy-minded iPhone owners, that pairing is a comfort.

The practical steps are the same as for any connected device. Use a real password on your Level account, do not reuse it from another website, and turn on the extra sign-in code if the app offers one. Those habits cover the great majority of the worry.

Be thoughtful too about who you share a digital key with, because anyone you share admin access with can see the history and manage access. Share that power only with the family members who truly need it. The system is as private as the care you put into the account behind it.

19. Security and the hidden bolt

Discreet does not mean weak.

A fair worry is whether a lock this hidden is also strong. The honest answer is yes. Level is built to a high hardware grade, carrying the top AAA security and durability mark, and it uses a real deadbolt. Hiding the smarts does not make the bolt any weaker.

- Level uses a genuine deadbolt and carries the highest residential hardware grade.
- Because it looks ordinary, it does not advertise to a passerby that the home has a smart lock.
- A lost keycard can be switched off in the app, unlike a copied metal key.
- Auto-lock means the door relocks itself, closing the common gap of a door left unlocked.

GOOD TO KNOW

The invisible design is a quiet security plus. A would-be intruder studying your door sees nothing to target and no sign that anything electronic is involved.

As with any lock, the weak point is usually the door frame, not the lock itself. A strong bolt in a soft frame still gives way to a hard kick. When I install, I check the strike plate and add longer screws into the stud if the frame needs it. That does more for your safety than any feature on the box.

Level also keeps a quiet log of entries, which is a gentle security of its own. You can glance at the app and see that the door opened when the aide was due, or that it has stayed shut

while you were away.

20. Common mistakes buying a Level

Save yourself a return.

Level is a specialist, and the mistakes people make with it almost always come from not realizing that. None of them are your fault, the appeal of the clean look is strong. Here is how to dodge each one.

- Buying it expecting a keypad: the bare lock has none, and a code means the separate keypad accessory.
- Buying the plain Level Lock and expecting Apple tap-to-open: that is the Level Lock+ only.
- Not checking that your door and bolt move smoothly, which the hidden motor depends on.
- Forgetting it takes one small CR2 cell that needs changing more often than big AA locks.
- Choosing it for someone who often arrives without a phone or a card in hand.

WATCH OUT

Measure your deadbolt and check the door thickness before you buy, just as with any smart lock. The wrong fit means a return, and Level's hidden design is less forgiving of an odd door than a face-mounted lock.

The other quiet mistake is buying Level for the looks alone without thinking through the daily opening. The looks are wonderful, but you open the door every day, so the way you open it matters more than how it looks to a visitor once.

If you want a second set of eyes before you spend, send me the model and a photo of your door at (330) 200-8042, and I will tell you if Level fits your door and your life. That quick check beats a return trip.

21. Plain answers to common questions

The ones I hear at the kitchen table.

The same questions come up every time I show someone a Level. Here are the short, honest answers so you are not left wondering.

- Will it work if the power goes out: yes, it runs on its own battery, not your house power. The app features pause until the internet returns, but the card and key still open the door.

- Can I still use my key: yes, Level keeps a real keyhole, and the Level Bolt even keeps your existing key.
- Does it need a subscription: no, the locking, cards, and app work with no monthly fee.
- Can I add a code pad: yes, Level sells a separate keypad accessory for that.

WATCH OUT

If a store clerk tells you a Level needs a monthly fee just to open your door, be careful with that advice. The basic locking, cards, and app never cost a monthly fee.

Another common one: will it fit my door. If you have a standard deadbolt that works smoothly, almost certainly, but the fit matters more with Level than with a face-mounted lock. A quick photo of both sides and a measurement lets me tell you for sure before you buy.

And the big one, is it worth it. For a phone-carrying, design-conscious household, especially an iPhone one, Level is a joy and well worth it. For someone who wants to punch a code at the door and nothing more, a keypad lock will make you happier for less money. I will tell you which camp I think you are in.

22. When to Call Bill

Your local help, start to finish.

You can buy a Level yourself, and plenty of my customers do. Where I earn my keep is making sure it fits your door, seats cleanly inside the bore, and is set up so you actually enjoy it rather than fight it. I have been doing hands-on tech work for more than thirty years, and the hidden locks are some of the most satisfying to get just right.

- Not sure whether Level fits your door and your life: I will look and tell you honestly.
- Bought a Level and want it installed smoothly, with the frame reinforced: that is my bread and butter.
- Bolt binding, battery warnings, or auto-unlock acting up: usually a quick alignment or battery fix.
- Want your app, keycards, and Apple tap set up and explained in plain words: I do that on every install.

GOOD TO KNOW

My first visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars. A remote screen-share, where I fix an app or a setting without coming out, is forty-nine dollars. And my Support Plan is thirty-nine dollars a month for folks who want me on call 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. My booking assistant Sophie can get you on the calendar if I am out on a job.

If I have helped you and you are happy, 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 stay safe out there.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this near the door. It is the one-glance version of the whole guide.

- Open it by phone, keycard, key, or Apple tap on the Lock Plus.
 - No keypad on the lock; add the separate keypad if you want codes.
 - Level Bolt keeps your existing hardware and key; Lock and Lock Plus use Level's own.
 - One small CR2 battery, changed more often than big AA locks.
 - Keep a spare CR2 and a spare key where you can reach them.
- 1 Measure your deadbolt and check the door moves smoothly.
 - 2 Pick Bolt to keep your hardware, or Lock Plus for the Apple tap.
 - 3 Set up the app and pair your phone and keycards.
 - 4 Turn on auto-lock so the door minds itself.
 - 5 Change the battery each fall before the cold.

TIP

Clip a keycard to a lanyard for anyone who finds the phone fiddly. One easy tap, no screens.

WORDS TO KNOW

Plain-English Word List

Hidden smart lock — A lock, like Level, whose electronics live inside the deadbolt so the door looks ordinary.

Level Bolt — The most hidden Level, which swaps only the inner works and keeps your existing handle and key.

Level Lock+ — The Level model that adds Apple Home Key for tapping an iPhone or Apple Watch to open.

Apple Home Key — A feature that opens the lock when you tap an iPhone or Apple Watch, with the key kept in Apple Wallet.

NFC keycard — A small card or fob you hold to the lock to open it, included with Level and manageable in the app.

CR2 battery — The single small lithium cell that powers a Level lock, hidden inside the deadbolt.

Auto-lock — A setting that relocks the door on its own after a set number of seconds.

Auto-unlock — A setting where the lock senses your phone approaching over Bluetooth and opens the door.

Level Home app — The free phone app where you add people, cards, and codes, and read the lock history.

Matter — An industry standard that lets a Level sit alongside other brands in one home app.

Keypad accessory — A separate number pad Level sells so you can open the lock with a code if you want one.

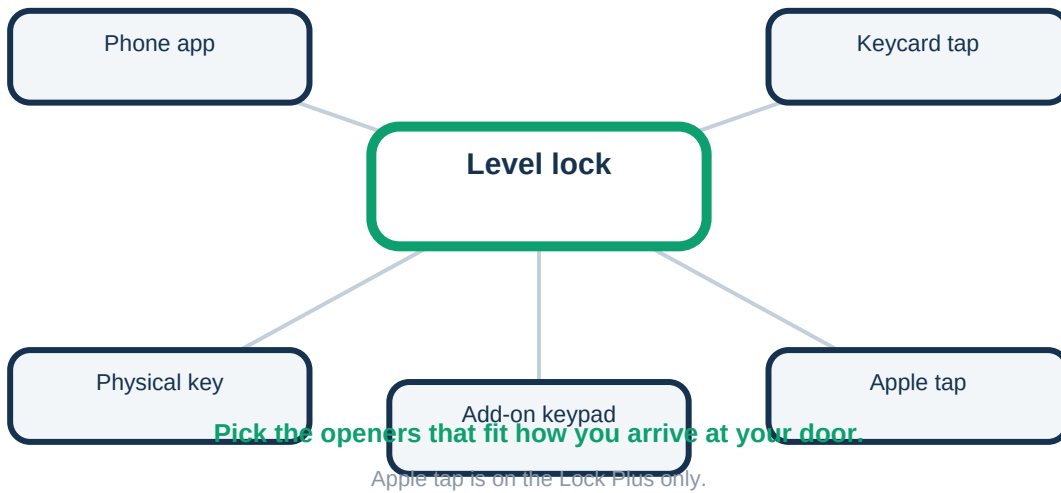
Strike plate — The metal plate on the frame the bolt slides into; proper alignment keeps a hidden motor from straining.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Ways into a Level

No keypad, several options



AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Level Bolt vs Level Lock

Keep your hardware, or use Level's

Level Bolt	Level Lock and Lock Plus
• Hides fully inside the door • Keeps your handle and trim • Your existing key still works • Most invisible of all	• Uses Level's own clean trim • Lock Plus adds Apple tap • Still looks like a plain deadbolt • New keys with the lock

Bolt to keep your look; Lock Plus for the Apple tap.

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.