

Smart Lock Quick Guide for Ottawa Homeowners (2026)

A one-page cheat sheet from Capital Locksmith.

THE 4 TYPES

1. **Keypad only** - cheap, reliable, no Wi-Fi. Best if you just want to stop carrying keys.
2. **Wi-Fi smart lock** - app control, push notifications, eats batteries faster.
3. **Z-Wave / Zigbee** - longest battery life, needs a smart home hub.
4. **Biometric** - fingerprint plus keypad backup. Mid-range models only for Ottawa winters.

COLD WEATHER RULES

Use lithium AA batteries (Energizer L91), not alkaline.

Pick physical buttons over capacitive touchscreens.

Keep your Wi-Fi extender within 5 metres of the door.

Get the strike plate alignment checked at install.

2026 PICKS

Best overall: Schlage Encode Plus (~\$380).

Best budget: Schlage BE365 (~\$150).

Best retrofit: Level Bolt (~\$329).

Best smart-home: Yale Assure 2 with Z-Wave (~\$300).

DEFAULT CODE WARNING

Change the installer code immediately. Set auto-lock to 30 seconds. Update firmware quarterly.

Need help installing? Capital Locksmith - capitallocksmith.ca - Ottawa & GTA