

Fridge and Cupboard Locks for PWS

There are various approaches to locking away food and different types of locks that are used. Some families adopt the approach of locking the whole kitchen if it is a separate room in the house; others prefer to store all foods in a lockable walk-in-pantry, whilst others may lock refrigerators and cupboards separately. Kitchen modifications can be expensive, but you may be eligible for funded modification services through [Accessible](#) or [Enable NZ](#) via a Ministry of Health [Equipment and Modification Service](#) (EMS) Assessor. Contact your DHB, NASC, OT or phone 0800 ENABLE for further information.

(Please note a possibility that some of the locks below may not be EMS funded if not purchased from a NZ supplier.)

Refrigerator Locks

One option is to have an inbuilt / integrated fridge freezer with a lockable cupboard door. Some people prefer this because the same locking system (or same key) can be used for all cupboards. However, if you want to apply a lock directly to the fridge / freezer, here are some suggestions:



Available in black or white, this lock has been a popular choice with USA based company, Lucas Distribution, offering a PWSA discount for families. They now have an Australian distributor which may be able to offer cheaper shipping and there is also the alternative of combination locks: www.seawardagencies.com.au/refrigerator-locks



Like the previous, this lock by Marinelock.com also attaches with high strength adhesive – no drilling required. It can be used with a key, combination or fingerprint padlock. Also available from Amazon and a similar version from Fishpond.co.nz

If you have a side by side door fridge / freezer, a somewhat cumbersome alternative method is to wrap a lock (i.e. a bicycle lock) around the handles. There are negatives to key and combination locks – keys can be lost or taken and combination codes can be cracked, especially if they are not mixed up again after opening! A solution is a fingerprint padlock – the new [Tapplock](#) padlock is available to buy in New Zealand from [Raven Imports](#).



Cupboard Locks

Many people prefer locks with keypad codes or fingerprint opening systems to avoid issues with keys or magnets. However, if you buy a code lock, ensure the code can be changed as eagle eyes are likely to be observing! (Electronic or digital versions are best.) For young children, the usual child locks or highly fixed magnetic locks sold in shops such as Baby Factory, Babycity, Mitre 10 or Bunnings can be effective until they can open, reach or climb on furniture.

It is also possible to have locking systems where multiple locks are controlled by a single programming station. For wired systems, you may need to consult both an architectural hardware specialist and electrician for advice. Another system, [StealthLock](#), uses radio frequency technology and can be installed without the need for an electrician.



This is an example of a digital, electronic [cabinet lock](#) by Hafele.co.nz

Digital deadbolts and door locks, such as these by Yale, are available from a variety of NZ locksmiths and hardware stores.



The pictured KABA EF780, the Schlage S-6800 and the LOGHOME LH5000F are biometric fingerprint locks which can be purchased from NZ stockists below. Less expensive alternative versions may be found on Ebay and Amazon.



This StealthLock system is available from Hafele.co.nz and elsewhere online.



Useful websites:

www.hafele.co.nz > products > architectural hardware

www.locksonline.co.nz

www.nzhardware.co.nz > door hardware > locks and latches or locks electrical

www.dglock.co.nz

www.assaabloy.co.nz > our products > access control or keyless entry or hinged door locks > cupboard locks or electromechanical products > electromagnetic locking