Rekeying an entire building is not always necessary, and it is not always what a business can afford to do on a given week. Sometimes only one office changed hands. Sometimes only the stockroom key went missing. A partial rekey, focused on the doors that actually matter, can be the right answer. The trick is making sure "just a few doors" really covers the problem.

Start With the Key, Not the Door

The most common mistake with partial rekeys is thinking door by door instead of key by key. Imagine a medical office in Westchester where the supply room key went missing. The office manager asks to rekey the supply room. Reasonable. But if that same key also opens the back hallway and the break room, rekeying only the supply room leaves two doors still answering to a lost key.

So begin with the key in question. Test it in every lock in the building and write down every door it opens. That list, not the one door you were worried about, is your 1ST L.S LOCKSMITH Los Angeles minimum scope.

Questions That Shape the Scope

A few questions help decide how far a partial rekey should go:

- **Which doors does the affected key operate?** All of them should be on the list.
- **Who else uses those doors?** Everyone who still needs access will need a new key.
- **Are any of those doors shared with another tenant or controlled by the landlord?** Those may need approval or coordination.
- **Do any of the doors also use a keypad or card reader?** Rekeying the cylinder does not change electronic permissions, so handle those separately.
- **Is there an existing master key arrangement?** Changing one cylinder in a master key system has knock-on effects, and the change should fit the system rather than break it.

If the answers keep pulling in more doors, that is useful information. It may mean your key setup has drifted over time and deserves a broader look.

What the Visit Looks Like

When you call 1ST L.S. Locksmith, tell us which doors you are thinking of including and why. We will ask whether the key also opens anything else, and whether any of the locks are shared or connected to other systems. On site, the technician checks the selected cylinders, the latches and how the doors operate, and explains what remains accessible if other cylinders are left unchanged.

That last part matters. You should leave knowing exactly what the old key can still open, if anything, so you can make an informed choice rather than discovering a gap later. You approve the list of cylinders and the cost before anything comes apart. Once the selected cylinders are done, the new key is tried in each one and the keys are passed to whoever is authorized to hold them.

Should one of the chosen locks prove worn out or broken, that gets raised on the spot, along with whether fixing it or replacing it makes more sense.

When a Partial Rekey Is Not Enough

Sometimes the honest recommendation is a wider change. If one key opens nearly every door, a partial rekey ends up being almost a full one anyway. If different staff should have different access but everyone carries the same key, it may be time to think about a planned master key system instead of rekeying piece by piece.

Commercial lock rekeying in Los Angeles works best when the scope matches the real access problem. For some businesses that is two doors. For others it is every cylinder in the building. Either way, a clear list of which key opens which door makes the decision far easier, and that list is worth keeping current long after the visit.

You can reach us 24 hours a day to talk it through. Want help working out how many doors your rekey really needs? Call 1ST L.S. Locksmith, 1580 Centinela Ave #7, Inglewood, CA 90302, (310) 430-1030, and describe the key and the doors you have in mind.