

# DOOR KNOB HANDLES

Although it's difficult to pinpoint exactly when door knobs were first used, we do have a good idea of what was used before they came into practice. However, it was in 1878 that the idea of inventing door knobs was first introduced by documentation. This was all started thanks to an inventor named Osbourn Dorsey, who first submitted a suggestion to the U.S Patent Office for a door-closing device. Nowadays, door knobs and door handles are a vital part of modern interior and exterior design and it's hard to imagine life without them.

## The History of Door Knobs

### What Were Used Before Door Knobs?

We do know that surface rim locks were first used by the Egyptians and it is likely that some form of pull handle, perhaps bronze or iron, would have been used to pull the door open. The key would have been used merely to lock the door.

In fact, people often only used locks with keys (if they could afford it), before the invention of door handles. If a lock was not possible, people would be able to keep their valuables in boxes that could be locked away. Due to the expense of locks and security, door knobs were not essential and there were simpler and cheaper ways of operating doors. This was why the latch-string created so that people could keep their belongings secure. Eventually, internal doors could be simply nailed together allowing either the use of a wrought iron thumb latch, or a cott latch to open and shut the door.

During the reign of Louis XIV (1643 - 1715), very decorative gilded doorknobs were created to mirror the opulent lifestyle he created for himself and his courtiers. We can assume that crude concealed mortice locks were invented then so that these delicately crafted doorknobs could be screwed to the face of the door maintaining a crisp clean appearance.

## 5 Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Door Knobs & Door Knockers

### Door Knobs were first made in the USA

Door knobs have been used around the world for centuries, but the first ever door knob was made in the USA around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. American doorknob designs and materials have changed over the years, with the first ever door knobs being made out of wood in colonial times, involving a simple system of latches and strings.

### Brass and Copper Door Knobs Disinfect Themselves

The surfaces of copper and its alloys, such as brass and bronze, have the advantage of being antimicrobial. This means that they are able to kill a range of harmful microbes relatively quickly. As you can imagine, this property makes brass and copper a good choice for healthcare environments, but it can also be reassuring to know that if you choose to have brass or copper door knobs in your home, microbes can be killed off within 2 hours or less!

### Door Knockers with Faces Are Thought to Scare Off Witches and Malign Spirits

It is quite common for some antique door knockers to have faces on them; often rather grotesque human faces that aren't particularly attractive. The theory behind this practice is that the scary face would serve to frighten off evil spirits, witches and unwanted spirit beings, keeping homes safe.

### The Famous Door Knocker of Number 10 Downing Street

Arguably the most famous door knocker in the world, Number 10 Downing Street's brass lion head door knocker is an iconic representation of Great Britain. Fitted in the 1780's and painted black, the Downing Street door knocker is a classic design that has been touched by some of the world's most influential leaders.

### Door Knobs Have 4 Main Parts

Door knobs are made up of 4 main parts. The basic components are the knob rose, shank, spindle and knob top. The knob top is the upper and larger part that is grasped in the hand. The shank is the stem of the knob and contains a hole or socket to receive the spindle. The knob rose is a washer or round plate that forms a knob socket and is adapted for attaching it to the surface of the door. The knob is attached to the spindle, which consists of a metal shaft that is used to turn the latch of the lock.



