

What is a Tubular Latch?

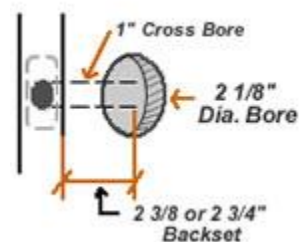
"Tubular latch" refers to the internal workings of a door knob/lever set, handleset, or deadbolt. Door locks with tubular latch are the most common type of latching mechanism in the US for residential purposes. You can identify a tubular latch by the size of the faceplate on the edge of the door. The metal faceplate where the spring latch comes out of the edge of the door is about 2-1/4" tall on a tubular latch. A mortise lock faceplate will be much taller. Tubular latches are easy to install and normally use a standardized door preparation. The standard door prep is a 2-1/4" diameter hole bored through the door and a 1" cross bore hole drilled through the edge of the door and into the main bore hole(see door prep below).



Handleset with tubular latches



Baldwin tubular latch



Standard door prep

The length of the tubular latch determines the backset length, so sometimes the latch is referred to as a "backset latch". The backset is the distance from the edge of the door to the center of the 2-1/8" bore hole on a standard door prep. Latches are commonly available in 2-3/8" and 2-3/4", but are also available in 2" and 5" lengths. Some tubular latches are adjustable, and will work for both 2-3/8" and 2-3/4" backset. Others are fixed length and will not adjust.