Panic bars, also called push bars or exit devices, take more abuse than almost any hardware in a business. Customers lean on them with full arms, staff bump them open with a cart, delivery drivers push them with a shoulder. So it is no surprise that, sooner or later, one starts to stick. The bar needs an extra shove, it does not spring back, or the door only releases if you hit the bar in one particular spot.

A sticking exit device is more than an annoyance. It is a door people need to be able to leave through without thinking about it. Here is what to look for and what to do.

Describe the Symptom Precisely

"It sticks" can mean a lot of different things. Before calling, watch the door for a day and note:

- Does the bar feel stiff to push, or does it push fine but the door still does not open?
- Does the bar return to its resting position on its own, or stay partly pressed?
- Does it happen every time, or only when the door is under pressure, such as when wind pushes against it or someone pulls from the outside?
- Is any part of the device visibly loose, crooked or rattling?
- Did the problem start suddenly, or get worse over weeks?

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Those details help separate a worn device from a door that has shifted or a strike that is out of line.

Common Causes

A sticking panic bar usually comes down to one of a few things:

- **Wear inside the device.** Springs, linkages and latching parts wear with heavy use.
- **Loose mounting.** If the device has worked loose from the door, it can bind when pushed.
- **Door position.** If the door has sagged or the frame has shifted, the latch may drag against the strike, making the bar feel stiff even though the device is fine.
- **Pressure on the latch.** Weather seals, a door closer that is not controlling movement properly or a door that does not sit square can hold pressure on the latch.

Because of that, the fix is not always inside the bar itself. Looking at the device alone can miss the real cause.

What Happens During the Assessment

When you call 1ST L.S. Locksmith, describe the door, the symptoms you noticed and whether people can currently exit through it. On site, the technician examines the device, its mounting and the related door hardware, including the latch, strike and closer, to understand what is going on.

From there, you will hear the options. Some devices respond well to repair or adjustment. Others are worn enough, or have parts that are hard to find, that replacement is the more sensible route. We explain those choices and the price before proceeding, rather than assuming every sticking bar needs to be replaced or that a quick adjustment will always fix it.

If the opening has issues outside the scope of hardware work, such as structural damage, glass problems or powered components that need a separate trade, that is explained so you can arrange the right help.

While You Wait for Service

Keep the problem visible to whoever is responsible for the premises. Avoid improvised fixes that could interfere with people leaving, like propping the door, removing parts or jamming the latch. And do not let staff get used to the workaround. A door that only opens when you know the trick is a door that will fail someone who does not.

After the agreed work, the technician tests how the door releases, closes and latches with the device in place, and explains anything that still needs separate attention.

A sticking exit device is a safety issue, and we answer the phone 24/7 for exactly that reason. For businesses that rely on panic bar repair in Los Angeles to keep exits working the way they should, the first step is a clear description of what the door is doing. Contact 1ST L.S. Locksmith, 1580 Centinela Ave #7, Inglewood, CA 90302, (310) 430-1030, to arrange an assessment.