



How Often Should a Safe Be Serviced?

Maintaining a safe isn't just about prolonging its physical life—it's about preserving its ability to perform under pressure. Whether used in a home, office, or commercial setting, even the most durable safes require routine care to prevent lock failures, maintain fire ratings, and ensure security systems function as intended. Understanding how often a safe should be serviced helps ensure it continues to protect your assets effectively over time.

1. Annual Professional Inspection is Key

Many experts and manufacturers recommend having your safe professionally inspected at least once a year—particularly in high-use environments or when using high-security safes like TL-15 or TL-30 models. These inspections help identify issues such as worn locking bolts, weakening fire/water seals, door alignment problems, or battery failures before they compromise your safe's performance.

For commercial locations like retail stores, banks, or hospitality businesses, annual maintenance aligns with standard security protocols and helps maintain reliability over time.

2. Lighter-Use and Residential Safes: Extend the Schedule

Residential safes that are accessed less frequently may be serviced every 2–5 years, provided there are no signs of wear, hard-to-turn bolts, or battery alarms.

Regular inspections should follow periods of heavy usage or noticeable performance changes (e.g., difficulty locking/unlocking, misalignment).

3. What Happens During a Service Visit?

A professional safe service typically includes:

1. Checking and lubricating locking bolts, hinges, and relockers.
2. Testing and replacing batteries in electronic locks.
3. Examining and adjusting door alignment and fire/water seals.
4. Inspecting auditing systems like keypads or time-delay locks.
5. Cleaning internal components and removing debris or dust that could impact function.

4. Watch for Warning Signs

Irregular service should follow any of these indicators:

Safe is harder to open or close, or the dial/handle feels unusual.

Low-battery alerts on digital systems.

Noticeable drift or misalignment in locking bolts or door seals.

Unusual noises during operation, such as clicking or grinding.

5. Benefits of Regular Service

Few consider that drywall contains moisture and sometimes chemicals (like formaldehyde). Over time, this can:

- **Create internal humidity.**
- **Lead to corrosion of stored metals, firearms, or electronics.**
- **Increase risk of mold in humid environments.**

Composite-filled safes generally use chemically neutral insulation, which won't compromise stored items and helps maintain interior air quality.

Final Recommendations

UL's Tool-Resistant (TL) ratings are a gold standard for commercial-grade safes:

- **TL-15: Resists tools for at least 15 minutes.**
- **TL-30: Withstands aggressive tool use for 30 minutes.**

Drywall-based safes do not qualify for TL ratings due to their soft cores. Composite safes with these ratings use multi-layer steel and internal concrete blends that hold up under drills, pry bars, and power tools.