



Energy Efficiency Solutions

Key card systems to switch off electricity in guestrooms

The use of metal keys for opening hotel rooms is a thing of the past already. Today, most hotels now offer high-tech hotel key cards, which allow their guests easy access to their rooms. Key card systems switch off electricity automatically when guest rooms are vacated, and thus avoid useless consumption of electricity (TV, lights...).

How do keycards help my hotel reduce energy consumption?

The principle of the key card system is the following: when the client inserts the key card in the energy saving device on entering his room, electricity is switched on; when the client leaves the room and retrieves the key card, electricity is switched off.

Related criteria of the EU Eco-label:

- Automatic switching off of lights in guest rooms counts as an optional criterion of the EU Eco-label (criterion #46).

Will the lights turn off immediately after the key card is removed?

Through a delayed switch-off, guests can comfortably leave the room before the lights go off.

What can I do if the hotel guests need to charge electrical equipment such as laptop computers, digital cameras or mobile phones?

By installing a key card system you can decide what you should be turned off in the room. You should consider leaving a socket live and clearly labelling it for charging purposes only! Please note that if you have a minibar in the room it should have a high efficiency rating and normally you should power this continuously.

Is it possible to leave the minibar turned on even if the keycard has been removed?

Yes. It is possible to keep some electric appliances (like minibars) on even when the room is vacated. To do so, specific care must be taken when installing the key card system (different circuits will be needed for those specific appliances).





What other advantages can hotel keycards bring to my hotel?



- The plastic hotel keycards can also be utilized as vital marketing tools for the hotel by displaying messages or advertisements.
- For hotel guests, these keycards are also handy and lightweight.
- In the event that hotel guests lose the card during their stay, they can still access their room with a new keycard which will be issued to them.
- Automatic control of electricity in guest rooms makes the employees' lives easier: they no longer have to worry about electrical appliances (TV, lights...) being left on.

How can I install a key card system in my hotel?

- To do so, the relevant electrical circuits of the guest room need to be connected to the key card system. This has to be done by a professional electrician.

When is it best to install a key card system?

- Due to the wiring requirements for interfacing the key card system to the relevant electrical circuits of the guest room, it is best to install a key card system when those electrical circuits are being renovated.

How much energy can my hotel save by installing a keycard system?

Hotels that have installed key card systems report that they have reduced the electricity consumption in guest rooms by 20 to 30%.

Link with other solutions in the database

Solution n°XII (lighting control) is a specific automatic room control system based on occupancy control and therefore should be considered together with solution n°XVI (regulation of space heating and cooling) which may also involve automatic room control systems.

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