

## **Door Lock Issues**

*As posted in the NICO forums by Vimyj*

Here are more notes I dug out from my own data base. Many thanks to the original author(s).

The first symptom of the door latch failing is this: When you close the door but leave the car unlocked, you will return and the alarm goes off when you open the door. That happened on both of our Js.

Basically the alarm sets by itself when you close the door. If your doors ever lock by themselves, replace your door lock timer! It's about \$60 from TJ. The old one has a red sticker on it with numbers that end in 70. The new one has a blue sticker on it with numbers that end in 77. This only applies to J30s made before November 16, 1994. When you crawl up under the dash, you'll see this thing with a relay attached to it. You'll need a 10mm wrench and a screwdriver. It's a real pain finding the thing. Once you identify it, it takes 10 minutes to do.

Both of our J30s had this problem (severely), and the new door lock timers solved it. Since the timer is under the dash, not the door, you don't need to do it when you have the door apart. The door latch is quite a troublemaker. It causes anything from setting off alarms to being unable to open the door! A new, updated latch is available for \$23. This is truly a pain to install. Minimum 3 hours. The door lock actuator attaches to the door latch (you have to remove and reinstall it when you replace the latch). It's about \$65. It's totally unnecessary to replace the actuator if the power lock works. A failed actuator would not prevent you from opening the door, only a failed latch would.

The actuator is simply the solenoid that locks/unlocks the door with the power locks. If your power window is "binding" on it's way up or down (moving very slow), replace the window regulator (about \$75 from TJ). If you don't, the gears on the motor will get stripped and a new motor is 3 times the cost of a regulator!

I was the one that posted that. When you order the door latch, order some new clips for the door panel in case you break any. Also, order a new door check (door stopper, whatever) if yours doesn't hold very well. May as well do it all at once while you have the door panel off. I've taken it off so many times it takes me less than 5 minutes now.

The driver's door latch wears out long before the passenger's, so maybe you should do them both at once to prevent any problems. You mentioned that the dealer replaced the door lock timers. There is only one door lock timer, and it's under the dash. If it has a red sticker, it's the old kind. If it has a blue sticker, it's the new kind.

See picture on next page...

