



Home Security

Window Security & Patio Doors

Windows & Patio Doors present a special challenge with respect to home security. They can be broken, forced open, or lifted from their track. Windows can also be used to defeat door locks when they are within 40 inches of the lock mechanism.

In order to improve your security, we recommend that you do the following.

ASSESS YOUR VULNERABILITY

- Take a look at the accessible windows around your property. These generally include basement and ground floor windows as well as any window that can be reached by an air conditioning compressor, arbours etc. Note whether landscaping screens these from view. In instances where this is a factor, consider reducing or removing some of the plant material.
- Check your property for sidelights (long window next to entrance door), sliding windows including patio doors, double hung windows and country-style doors (side entrance with large glass panel). If your property has any of these features, check the appropriate section below.
- Be mindful of your security habits. Lock all accessible windows when going out - even for short trips. Limit the size of accessible window openings if they are being used for ventilation at night. Accomplish this by installing a securable, window stop. Never store ladders on the exterior of your house as this can provide access to windows that are otherwise inaccessible.

IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF YOUR EXISTING WINDOWS/PATIO DOORS

Sliding Windows / Patio Doors

Sliding windows can be defeated in one of three ways. They can be forced open, lifted up and out or the glass can be broken. Sliders require reinforcement to prevent easy entry.

Close The Gap At The Top Of The Window

All sliding windows and doors have an "installation" gap at the top which allows them to be lifted up and out. This gap should be filled by one of two methods:

1. A piece of wood can be cut so that it is slightly (about 1/8" inch) smaller than the gap and the width of the window. This will allow it to sit on top of the window or patio door frame filling the gap yet providing for movement. The wood can be removed from the inside if necessary for maintenance.
2. Two or three flat head wood screws can be fixed into the portion of the upper track above the windows that are used for ventilation (the window(s) behind the screen).

Prevent Lateral Movement

Most locks in sliding glass windows and doors are constructed of cast metal or vinyl and therefore are easily broken. Window security can be greatly improved by:

- cutting a snug piece of wood the size of a broom handle or hockey stick next to the windows used for ventilation;
- adding a secondary locking device.

Patio Doors

Patio doors are little more than large sliding windows. As such, security can be enhanced using the above methods. The size of patio door allows for additional options. These include the use of "Charlie" bars and pins.

Charlie Bars

Charlie bars are designed to prevent lateral movement in patio doors. They are installed at a convenient height and create a visible deterrent to burglars thereby making them a superior option. Charlie bars are available at most hardware and home improvement centres.

Pins

A quarter inch metal "pin" can be used to "lock" the patio door frames together. This should be installed near ground level (in the event of a fire) by carefully drilling through the intersection of the patio frames, being careful not to come in contact with the glass or pierce the exterior metal. For

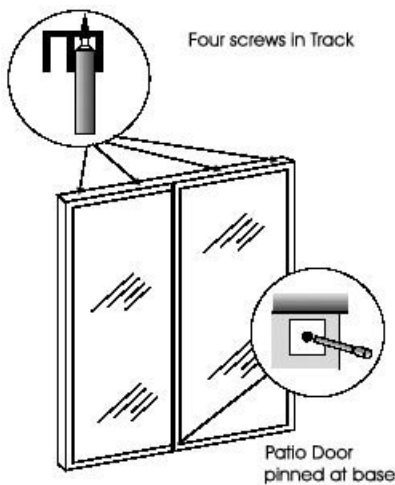
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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You may also want to examine our Internet site at:

www.peelpolice.ca



maximum effectiveness, the pin should be drilled at a downward angle. Pins are available at hardware stores and home improvement centres.

Double Hung Windows

Double hung windows can't be forced open by applying pressure to the locks. The security of double hung windows can be greatly improved by using pins (see above) or adding a secondary locking device.

Glass

Thieves typically break glass to provide access to locks. Security glazing should be used to protect glass within 40 inches of a lock. The glazing product can be polycarbonate (a rubberized, plastic panel) or a laminated (film-like) security product that meets the following forced entry standards:

- Underwriter's Laboratory of Canada Standard S 332 (ULC S332)
- Underwriter's Laboratory Standard 972 (UL 972)
- American Society of Testing Materials F1233 Class II (ASTM F1233 Class II)

Polycarbonate (**NOT** to be confused with plexiglass) is readily available at home improvement centres and is ideal for the do-it-yourselfer. Laminated

products require professional installation. (See "glass coating and tinting" in the yellow pages.)

*(Note: Some security professionals recommend the use of a double cylinder deadbolt to prevent a thief from disengaging the lock by breaking the glass. The Peel Regional Police **do not** support the use of double cylinder deadbolts in the home environment as they can require a key to disengage the lock from the inside which can be a hazard in the event of a fire.)*

Country-Style Doors

Country-style doors such as those that are common at side entrances have large fixed windows that are easily broken. The security of country style windows can be greatly enhanced by installing a piece of polycarbonate around the inside frame of the windows.

DON'T ADD TO YOUR PROBLEMS

Many problems can be minimized, by thinking security before you purchase. If you are contemplating adding landscaping in front of windows, consider low lying varieties that require little maintenance and hold little appeal to burglars.

If you are thinking about replacing windows and doors consider the following factors:

Style

Casement and awning style windows are, by their nature, generally more secure than sliding or double hung windows of comparable quality. This is due to their second lock and the presence of a mechanism.

Solid doors are, by their nature, much more secure than doors with windows. Where a window is absolutely necessary, consider a small half moon window at the top of the door.

Quality

Quality is also a factor when it comes to achieving security. Quality windows

are characterized by tighter fits and better locks, which ultimately make your windows more difficult to defeat. The same holds true for doors.

Glass

Same as the glass recommendations from the previous section.

Polycarbonate vs. bars

Bars have traditionally been used by people seeking more security, yet bars have a number of drawbacks. They are unsightly-particularly for main floor use, have a harsh appearance and can block escape in the event of a fire. People also tend to over estimate the stopping power of bars which are routinely defeated by burglars. This is especially true for bars that are installed with screws accessible from the outside or windows that are located away from view.

A polycarbonate panel can be used as an alternative to bars. The polycarbonate panel is cut to the size of the frame of the window and hinged on the inside where a pair of throw bolts are added. The panels are clear like windows and provide escape in the event of a fire.

OTHER HOME SECURITY FACT SHEETS

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Home Security Challenge
- Home Security – Doors, Frames & Locks
- Home Security – Residential Alarm Systems
- Mark Your Property
- Residential Hi-Rise Security
- Repeat Burglaries

If you have any questions please contact, Crime Prevention Services at 905-453-3311 or ask for your Community Liaison Officer.