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How To Burglar-Proof Your Windows

By MalaMaal.com

How To Burglar-Proof Your Windows

Many burglars enter homes by simply breaking glass windows. A good deterrent is to have better quality glass installed at vulnerable points around the perimeter of your residence. Most burglars avoid attempting to break the following types of glass due to the fear of attracting attention:

LAMINATED GLASS is made by a vinyl or plastic interlayer sandwiched between two layers of glass. This type of glass adds additional strength to your windows. To gain entry, a burglar would have to strike the glass repeatedly in the same spot in order to make a small opening. Most burglars are reluctant to create this type of noise for fear of being detected.

TEMPERED GLASS is made by placing a piece of regular glass in an oven, bringing it almost to the melting point, and then chilling it rapidly. This causes a skin to form around the glass. Fully tempered glass is four to five times stronger than regular glass.

WIRED GLASS adds the benefit of a visible deterrent. Extra effort will be needed to break the glass and then cut through the wire located within the glass, in order to gain entry.

PLASTICS: Plastic material is divided into two types : acrylic or polycarbonate. The acrylics are more than ten times stronger than glass of the same thickness and are commonly called plexiglass. Polycarbonate sheets are superior to acrylics and are advertised as 250 times more impact resistant than safety glass, and 20 more times than other transparent plastic.

With SLIDING WINDOWS the primary objective is to keep the window from sliding or being lifted up and out of the track. There are many manufactured products available for securing windows. Here are some of the suggestions:

PINNED WINDOW ANTI-SLIDE BLOCK SLIDEBOLT: It is not recommended that you lock a window in a ventilated position. This is an invitation to a prying action which can result in entry. Key locking devices offer no real security, and they can be a fire exit hazard.

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CASEMENT WINDOWS are the simplest to secure. Make sure the latch works properly and that the "operator" has no excess play. If so, replace the worn hardware.

DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW latches may be jimmed open. If a window is not used, screw it shut (except bedrooms). For windows in use, drill a sloping hole into the top of the bottom window, through and into the bottom of the top window, and insert an easily removable pin or nail.

LOUVRE WINDOWS are bad security risks. Remove and replace with solid glass or other type of ventilating window. Or protect with a grate or grille (except bedrooms).

WARNING: One window in every bedroom on the ground and second floor must be left available as a fire exit, particularly for children and guests in your home. At night, the bedroom window may often be the quickest and safest means of getting out. Because of the danger of fire, decorative grilles are

not recommended on bedroom windows.

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Home Areas That Are At Risk And Need Protection

By Jason Spencer

Many dangers threaten your home, but there are steps you can take to help protect your home and lessen the threat. Some areas of your home are more at risk than others, and by identifying those and implementing security measures, you can improve the overall security level of your house.

The doors and windows are the logical weak spots for your home. Insecure locks or a weak door will allow a burglar an easy way inside your home. So a basic safety precaution you can take is to make sure you install good sturdy locks on your doors and make sure the doors themselves are strong and secure.

The windows are an obvious danger since they are made of glass. Since the first floor is easier to access, it is generally the first floor windows that need to be considered for a safety overhaul. One thing you can do is install enforced glass which is very hard to break, much harder than regular glass. You can also install a double layer of glass which makes it harder to break; this will also double as added insulation to keep energy costs down. Check that the locks on your windows are sturdy and hard to open and make sure they are in the locked position. Consider installing a motion detector by your doors and windows as a deterrent.

If you have sliding glass doors make sure they cannot be pushed off the track in order for a burglar to gain access.

Next you want to consider your garage. A burglar may break into your garage and then attempt to enter your house. Be sure your garage is secure. Follow the advice above for making sure the doors and windows in the garage are secure. The door leading from the garage to inside your home should be enforced and has good locks. Make sure to include your garage in your home alarm system and include motion detectors.

Another good idea is to check for ways a robber might get onto your second floor. If you have a ladder, make sure it is locked in the shed when not in use. If you have a trellis, you may want to remove it. Don't make it easy for someone to climb up to your second story windows. You should also protect your windows as was discussed above in case a burglar does try to break into your house by coming down from the roof into the second story.

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