



DOOR SECURITY

Most intruders entering your property will enter through a door or window. Leaving windows or doors open, unlocked or improperly secured offers little or no obstruction to the intruder. Whether an intruder gains access to your home, through your external doors, may depend on the strength of the construction material, the quality of the locks and the proper fitting and installation of the door.

Intruders will identify the physical weaknesses of entry points and choose their targets based on ease of access and reduced chances of getting caught. Similarly they will be influenced by signs of good security, such as physical robustness or secondary locks, and move onto other targets.

Types of Doors

There are many types of external doors such as: Solid hardwood, Hardwood incorporating glass panelling, Aluminium, uPVC, Composite doors or timber-faced steel-reinforced doors.

Hardwood doors should be a minimum of 44mm in thickness and capable of supporting both rim and mortice locks and hung on at least three 100mm hinges. Glass panelling, where fitted, should be laminated to at least 6.4mm in thickness. The frame of the door should be securely bolted to the wall at no less than 600mm intervals around the frame.

uPVC and Aluminium and Composite Doors are generally unsuitable to retrofit with security devices and may, where this is done, compromise any installation warranty. In these circumstances, you should always consult with the fabricator or installer as appropriate. Most are commonly fitted with a multi-point locking system and when certified to the standards outlined below generally offer a high degree of security protection.

Timber-faced steel-reinforced doors are the strongest residential doors available and when certified to European Security Standard IS EN 1627:2011 offer a higher degree of security protection.

Patio doors are generally either sliding or double leaf 'French Doors' - sometimes known as 'French Windows'. A security weakness with sliding patio doors may be found in their fitting along the running rails where the doors could be lifted and removed. Approved anti-lift devices should be fitted. Security bars or security products which cuff the door handles internally to prevent the doors being parted, even if the locking mechanism is forced, are also strongly recommended.

Most **internal domestic doors** are hollow core and fitted with two-lever mortice locks. They would offer a time delay rather than any real physical deterrent. Leave these doors unlocked when the home is vacant, as they will seldom restrict the determined intruder and will likely further add to any vandalism that is committed.

Keys

Keys should be stored safely. Avoid leaving them in their locking mechanism. They can be used by a trespasser to deny you entry to your home. Additionally, they can be stolen or removed and copied. In the case of doors where entry or exit is solely key-controlled, it is imperative that the location and safe storage of these keys is known to all the occupants in the event of a fire or emergency evacuation. Keys should always be kept accessible to occupants, but out of reach of potential trespassers or burglars.



DOOR SECURITY (CONT.)

Garages and Sheds

Garages and sheds used for storing valuable property should be properly secured. Padlocks with an EN 12320 or equivalent standard are recommended. Consider connecting your garage or shed to your house alarm. Side gates should be flush with the front of the house and ideally not easily scalable.



DOOR SECURITY FEATURES

The **front access door** to any home should be fitted, where possible and appropriate, with the following additional security features:

- **Door Viewer**, which should be wide-angled, that will allow the occupant to identify callers before the door is opened. Consider using a doorbell incorporating CCTV.
- **Door Chain** or **Limitter**, which allows the occupant to restrict the complete opening of the door until desired.
- **Hinge Bolts** which will strengthen the door against forced entry.
- **Letter Tray/Restrictor** to prevent car key fishing.

Where letterboxes are fitted to a door, they should be at least 400mm or 16 inches from any locking mechanism.

It is recommended that all external entry/exit doors are designed to withstand forced intrusion to an acceptable level. Doors manufactured to comply with the European standard I.S. EN 1627:2011 or the British security standard for doors & windows PAS 24-2016 or equivalent are recommended as these will have been subjected to specific security and burglar resistance tests.

The ideal domestic secure door will incorporate most or all of the following security features:

- **5 lever mortice deadlock** lock to BS 3621, or EN 12209 or equivalent - top and bottom
- **Cylinder lock** - EN 1303 or equivalent
- **Rim-latch lock** with dead lock facility
- **Hinge bolts** to reinforce the hinge side of the door
- **Door chain** and wide angle viewer

If employing a **locksmith** when repairing, replacing or adding locks they must be licenced by the Private Security Authority. The contact details of a local locksmith can be found on www.psa.ie.



REMEMBER

When the home is occupied, fire safety is your priority; however, when the home is unoccupied, security is your main concern.



USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

•The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit, Garda H.Q., Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6663669 Email: GNCPU@garda.ie An Garda Síochána www.garda.ie

•The National Standards Authority of Ireland, www.nsai.ie

•Secured by Design <https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

•The Associated Locksmiths of Ireland
<https://www.facebook.com/aloireland/>

•The Master Locksmiths Association
www.masterlocksmiths.co.uk



Crime Prevention Video

