

Burglary Prevention



Burglary and theft prevention is a necessary part of your loss prevention program. The level of complexity of your protection systems should be determined on the basis of characteristics of your area and the theft attractiveness of your stock and equipment.

Whether a theft is the result of a smash and grab or a more sophisticated entry, the resulting building damage and property loss can be significant. It's always better to avoid a burglary than deal with its after-effects.

The following are some areas to consider when designing your burglary prevention program that will help to minimize the risk of break-ins.

● **Building design and materials:**

An effective burglary prevention program needs to consider the building design and how the various components of a building need to work together to prevent burglaries. The weakest points of buildings are typically the doors and windows. These need to be protected.

When constructing a building, the burglary potential should be considered in the design and materials chosen. You should take into consideration the theft attractiveness of the contents and limit the number of doors and windows. Entry points should be located in a manner that discourages burglary.

Building materials are a key component of burglary prevention. For example, pre-cast concrete walls offer considerably better protection than metal-clad walls. The likelihood of a thief entering the building through a solid concrete wall is remote in comparison to a metal-clad wall.

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Burglary Prevention *(continued)*

☉ Doors:

Doors are favourite access points for thieves as they can be easy to open. Some key things to consider include:

- All exterior doors should have high security deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw.
- Side and rear doors should include supplemental protection such as an iron gate or iron bolts.
- Overhead doors should be secured with padlocks.
- Overhead door windows should be protected with metal bars or mesh.
- Outward swinging doors should have hinges with pins that are non-removable from the outside.
- Perimeter doors should be of substantial construction.
- Side and rear doors should be of solid-wood or steel construction and installed in reinforced steel frames.
- Hollow-core wood doors or panel doors should be replaced or be reinforced on the inside with sheet metal.
- All glass panel doors should be protected with burglar-resistant film or metal bars.
- All doors should be illuminated from above and the light fixtures protected from breakage.

Note: Locking devices must comply with local building code requirements and must be unlocked when the building is occupied as per local legislation.

☉ Windows:

- Windows should be protected from the inside with metal bars attached to the frame or burglar-resistant security film.

☉ Exterior Protection:

- Install exterior lighting to eliminate dark areas to discourage thieves.
- Eliminate plants or other hiding areas around doors and windows.
- Install fenced compounds to protect open lots.

☉ Burglar alarms:

Burglar alarms provide additional protection and complement the physical security of a building. For additional information, please see the *Prevent & Protect* bulletin on **Burglar Alarm Systems**.

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