

Staying Safe Practical Tips for Personal and Home Safety



If you do come home and notice something suspicious such as a broken window or lock, don't go in as someone may still be inside. Go to a neighbour's house and call the police. If you notice a break-in has occurred once you've entered, don't touch anything. Leave immediately and call police.

Doors

A solid doorframe should be constructed of wood or metal fitting easily into the frame with not more than three millimetres of clearance on the sides and top and not more than six millimetres of clearance on the bottom.

Exterior doors should swing inward so that hinge pins cannot be removed from the outside. If the hinge pin is exposed, you can use non-removable hinges or modify existing ones. At least two screws per hinge should penetrate thirty millimetres into the wooden jamb and at least twenty-five millimetres into the door.

Locks

A good lock is the key to home security--and peace of mind. Spring-latch locks are not recommended as they are easily broken. Single-cylinder deadbolt locks are operated with a key from the outside and a switch from the inside and are recommended.

Windows

All windows should have effective working locks and a solid frame. Windows within two metres of the ground should be well secured, with grills or bars as an option. If you have a grill on a bedroom window, make sure it can be easily opened from the inside so it doesn't hamper escape in case of fire.

Don't forget about skylights. Make sure they have a locking device.

Keep curtains or blinds closed at street level so people can't see inside.

Patio doors should have a safety bar to deter intruders. You can also drill a blind hole into the top and bottom of the frame, so you can insert a nail or peg. Place the nail or peg and a piece of wood in place every time you leave your home, or at night.