

HOME SECURITY



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Doors



Doors

If your front and back doors are not secure, neither is your home. Keep them locked even when you're at home.

If you are replacing or fitting a new door set, make sure it is certified to British Standard PAS24 'Doors of Enhanced Security'. Ask for a 'spy hole' to be fitted to the door, this will allow you to see who is at the doorstep.

Make sure the doors and frames are strong and in good condition. Wooden doors should be solid and at least 44mm (1 3/4 ins) thick.

Fit five-lever mortise deadlocks (Kitemarked BS3621) to all external doors, including French doors unless your door is not wooden, UPVC doors should have a multi-point lock with at least three points. If this is your only way to escape in an emergency a lock Kitemarked BS8621 or TS007 should be used.

Fitting locks to UPVC or metal doors is a specialist field – seek advice from a locksmith.

Patio doors

Patio doors are especially vulnerable to break-ins as burglars can lever off the tracks. When buying ask for the sliding section to be on the inside and for anti-lift blocks. Multi-locking systems are recommended or install mortise security bolts with removable keys at the top and bottom of both doors. Existing patio doors can be fitted with additional security bolts to stop lifting or forced entry.

Spy hole or door viewer

If there is no window near the door which allows you to see who is at the doorstep, fit a spy hole. Look through it to identify callers before you decide to open the door.

Hinges

Check that the door hinges are sturdy and secured with strong, long screws. For added security, fit hinge bolts. These are cheap and help to reinforce the hinge side of a door against force. Hinge bolts or security hinges are especially important if your door opens outwards.

Letterbox

Letterboxes should be at least 400mm (16 inches) away from any locks. Consider fitting a letterbox defender or restrictor which prevents burglars from putting their hands or gadgets through the letterbox and trying the latches from the inside.

In some cases it may be appropriate to seal an existing letterbox and fit an external lockable letter box to the outside of the property.

For wooden doors

Rim lock, these lock automatically when the door is closed. It can be opened without a key from the inside and should meet British Standard BS3621.

