

Methods of Window Protection

Window Protection Methods

In the majority of cases, intruders into a building use the structure's common openings. In addition to doors, the next most available opening is usually a window. Caution should be taken with any openings intended to be fire escapes. Protection should never impede escape. Check with your building code authority for acceptable hardware requirements.

What to Guard

All grade floor and cellar windows, with the exception of show windows, should be protected by iron bars or steel mesh screens. Similar protection also should be provided for windows which can be easily reached from adjoining premises, or fire escapes. Other openings including transoms, skylights and small panes adjacent to doors must be protected.

How to Guard

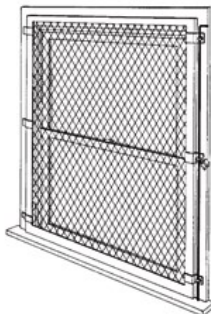
There are numerous ways to increase window opening security and each situation must be individually examined. Some of these are:

- *Locks* – If the window can be opened, some provision should be made to lock the window itself. Many times entry is made simply by opening the window.
- *Design* – In new construction, it is possible to select a window which is designed by size and construction to restrict burglary.
- *Close Up* – Often the best method of eliminating a susceptible opening is to close up the existing window with material equivalent to the wall construction. A common expression is to brick up the opening.
- *Screens* – Screens should be installed only on the inside of windows unless they are specifically designed for exterior installation. They may be permanently mounted to be of the hinged type. The screen should be 1¾ inch diamond mesh, #9 gauge wire or expanded metal to cover, with overlap, the entire opening. Fit the permanent type with lugs on each side not more than 24 inches on centers. Hinged type should have hinge lugs on one side, not more than 24 inches on centers and hasps on the other side not more than 6 inches on centers. Lugs, hinged lugs and hasps should be security fastened to the building structure with anchors, toggle bolts, lag screws or familiar fasteners.
- *Glass Block* – Where light transmission is necessary, but the window is not necessary for ventilation, the opening may be closed with glass block.
- *Show Windows* – When protection is needed temporarily, as when a store or business closes for the night, collapsible steel gates or grills may be used. Security glass will also provide excellent protection. It also is a good idea to protect the wall in back of the show window.
- *Plastic Glazing or Reinforced Glass* – Many new plastic products are available which have remarkable resistance to breakage while maintaining a high degree of transparency and visibility. Laminated glass or traditional wired glass may be suitable in some instances.



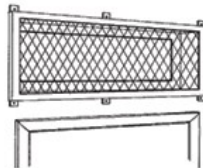
Exterior window protection

Iron bars imbedded into masonry framing or welded to metal framing



Interior window protection

Hinged-type mounting
Hinge lugs on one side not more than 24 inches on centers and hasps on the other side not more than 36 inches on centers.



Interior window protection (transom)

Permanent mounting
Lugs not more than 24 inches on centers