Hardening the Target
Simple, Inexpensive Ways to Make Your Home More Secure

The Bloomfield Township Police Department
Leo Savoie, Township Supervisor  Kirt Bowden, Chief of Police
Securing Sliding Window / Door Walls

Some older sliding door walls and windows can be lifted up and out of the track from the outside of the house. The fix is quite simple. Using a power drill, drive two or three screws into the upper track where the sliding door will be when it is in the closed position. Leave enough of the screw protruding so that it will keep the door from being lifted out of the track, but not so much as to prevent the door from sliding open / closed.

Leo Savole, Township Supervisor
Kurt Bowden, Chief of Police

The Bloomfield Township Police Department 248-433-7755 / EMERGENCY 9-1-1
Securing Sliding Window / Door Walls

As little gap as possible

Top Window Frame Track

-OR-

Sliding door walls and windows can be better secured with a stick/bar in the lower track (left), or the installation of an additional lock (above).

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Secure Wood Sash Windows

Side Views

**The Problem**

A burglar can simply break the glass in one small place near the lock, unlock the window, then open it, allowing him access to your home.

**The Improvement**

On the far right or left of the window, drill a hole completely through the top of the lower sash and about halfway through the lower part of the upper sash, then insert a nail. Drill this hole at a downward angle. The hole should be slightly larger than the nail’s diameter so the nail can be easily removed in case of emergency.

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Reinforcing Entrance Doors

The screws in the strike plates and hinges should be 2 1/2” to 3” in length. This door is much more secure now that the strike plate is anchored to the wall stud.

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Pinning Exterior Hinges

‘Pinning’ hinges is very simple. Remove ONE screw from one side of the hinge plate. Then, unscrew the corresponding screw from the other hinge plate, replacing it with a screw that is about 3/8" longer. Saw the head of this screw off so that it will enter the screw hole of the screw that you removed. Repeat this on all other hinges on this door.

When a hinge is on the outside of a door (the hinge pin is outside), a burglar can simply remove the hinge pin, taking the door off of the hinges, gaining access into your home. By ‘pinning’ your exterior hinges, this will be more difficult.

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Securing Doors That Have Windows

Many homes have doors with windows installed in them. In some of these, a burglar can simply break the glass, reach into the home, and unlock the door from the inside. There is a way to secure these doors. The solution is an attractive, effective, and inexpensive product called the Door Club®. This product is available at almost any home improvement store.

Lock shown in “open door” position. Reverse for maximum “closed door” security.

Look stored in convenient “Caddy” when not in use.

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Get an Alarm System!

A quality alarm system can either deter a would-be burglar from breaking into your home, or at least, can limit the amount of time they spend in your home once the alarm has been tripped. There are many alarm companies to choose from, so it may be difficult to pick one. Here are some qualities to look for:

- How long has the company been in business?
- Is the alarm equipment and monitoring station U.L. @ certified?
- How much, exactly, will the alarm system cost? Get at least three estimates.
- Is the company licensed with the State of Michigan? This can be checked online.
- Is the company insured and bonded? Ask for proof, or call the insurance company.
- In how many states does the company do business? Consider a system from one of the larger, national companies.

- Beware of alarm system sales people using high-pressure tactics to sell you an alarm. An alarm system for most homes should run no more that $700, and usually, much less than this is necessary.
- How much is the monthly monitoring fee? For how long is that price guaranteed?
- When your alarm is tripped, make sure the alarm company is instructed to CALL THE POLICE FIRST! If the company calls you first, valuable time will be wasted, thus helping the burglar.

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Landscaping and Home Security

OVERGROWN!

While this homeowner may have spent thousands of dollars on planting, the size and shape of the landscaping permit ample hiding places for would-be criminals.

Much Better!

This landscaping has been trimmed to 3 feet high or window sill height, whichever is lower.
Home Security Survey

The Bloomfield Township Police Department offers free home security surveys to its residents. These surveys assess the security of your home, its strengths and vulnerabilities. With this knowledge, the homeowner can take steps toward improving their security. Call Officer Matejcik today at 248-433-7724.