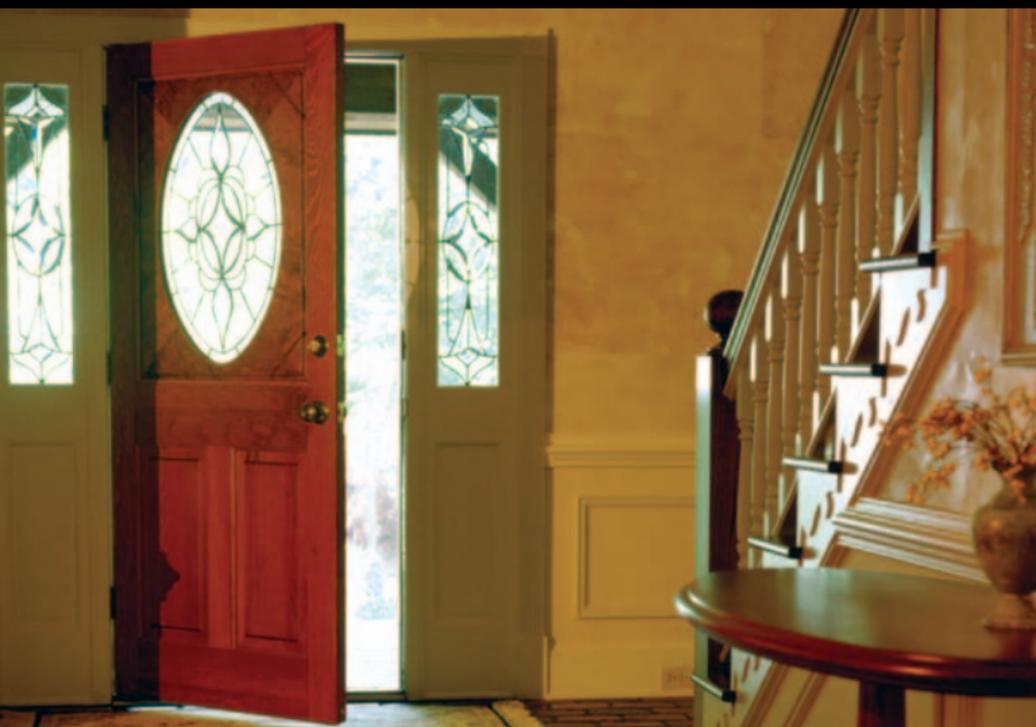




National Crime Prevention Council
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Thirteenth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5325
202-466-6272
www.ncpc.org

©2005 National Crime Prevention Council
Medeco High Security Locks, Inc.

Locking Your Home



What to know before buying
locks for your home.

Security

Locks
are a significant
part of a
comprehensive strategy
for protecting
your
home, your
loved ones,
and your
possessions.

Alfonso E. Lenhardt
President and CEO

The National Crime
Prevention Council



TIMES HAVE CHANGED

There was a time when we did not feel the need to lock the doors of our homes. As times have changed, so has the need to use locks for protection and to seek better locking technology for our homes and businesses. Deadbolts emerged on the market during the 1960s and gained popularity through the 1970s as a way to add additional security to a door. Today even newer technologies are available to further enhance security appropriate to the societal risks. According to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), burglars look for homes that are easy targets. More than ever, locks are the most critical element in protecting your family and possessions.

LOCKS HAVE CHANGED

Not all locks are created equally. As you shop the lock aisle at your local hardware store, you quickly become overwhelmed with the options. There are three things you should consider when buying a lock:

Key Control: If you give your keys to anyone else, even for a short time, will they be able to make a copy without your knowledge or permission?

HIGH SECURITY

RECOMMENDED

Keys are protected against unauthorized duplication by utility patents. This offers additional protection against such physical attack as drilling, prying, pulling, wrenching or kicking.

KEY CONTROL

ACCEPTABLE

Keys are protected against unauthorized duplication by patent.

STANDARD LOCKS

LOW SECURITY

Offers the minimum level of security available. Keys can be copied at over one million locations in the U.S. Some keys are stamped "do not duplicate," but offer no legal protection against unauthorized duplication.

Physical Strength: How well will the lock withstand abuse such as kicking or jimmying? In addition to strong locks, the strike needs to have reinforcement to the door frame with 2" - 3" screws.

Durability: Will the lock stand up to years of use without failing or becoming difficult to operate?

Lock Rating	Strength*	Life Span**
Grade 1	Grade 1 & 2 test + 2 blows @ 150 ft-lbf	11 years
Grade 2	Grade 3 test + 2 blows @ 120 ft-lbf	5 years
Grade 3	2 blows @ 60 ft-lbf + 2 blows @ 90 ft-lbf	3 years
Ungraded	Unknown. Generally less than Grade 3 standards	

* Number of blows required to cause lock to fail

** Assuming 10 lock or unlock cycles per day



COMMON OVERSIGHTS

Key duplication.

If you give your keys to others, they can have copies made quickly and easily at one of millions of key cutting centers. Be sure to understand how easily this can happen and protect yourself by using locks and keys that are protected by a patent and carry the appropriate certifications. How often do you give your keys to other people? Consider the babysitter, the gardener, neighbors, friends, family, parking attendants and how easily they might duplicate a key for convenience and forget to tell you.

Physical bypass.

When searching for a truly secure lock, always look for locks that provide protection against drilling or picking, as well as those that have a long enough bolt so that the door cannot be pried open. Additionally, some locks have bolts that are made of hardened material or have hardened inserts to protect against a possible intruder from sawing the bolt.

SECURING DIFFERENT DOOR TYPES

Front door with glass:

A common way to enter a home is to break a glass window near a door in to unlock the door. A double cylinder dead-bolt, or a special deadbolt that has a removable thumbturn, can offer protection against this type of entry. Be sure to check with your local officials to verify if either of these types of locks are allowed in your community before changing them.



Front door without glass:

A heavy-duty tubular deadbolt or mortise lock provides good protection on a front door so long as it has at least a 1" bolt and can provide protection against picking, drilling, and other forms of physical attack.

Garage door:

Be sure to put a deadbolt on the door between your garage and home as many garage doors are easily opened by errant radio signals.

Review the suggested requirements for the front door to determine the type of deadbolt to use.



Securing windows:

Windows should be secured with either locking hardware that utilizes a key for operation or with removable pins so that a burglar cannot easily force the window open.



SECURING DIFFERENT DOOR TYPES

Patio and Garden doors:

Many patio or garden doors offer a burglar the ideal opportunity for entry. Sliding doors should be secured with either a locking pin type lock or some type of



auxiliary locking device that prevents the door from being lifted off its track. Garden doors often employ multipoint locking, which offers good physical security, but have an inexpensive cylinder that offers no protection against drilling, picking or unauthorized key duplication. Retrofit cylinders are available for the door to allow the use of both the multipoint hardware AND a better cylinder.

Utility doors:

Any storage door or basement door should be secured with the same types of locks as the other doors on the home. A burglar can easily identify the least secure door on



a home and will often use it to gain entrance. Typically these type of doors should be secured with a good quality deadbolt.

Out buildings:

There are two risks associated with unsecure utility doors. The obvious is the items contained within the outbuilding could be taken. Less obvious is that a burglar could use the building as a hiding place to further scope out an entrance to the main home.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Locks represent a significant part of your comprehensive approach to home security. NCPC recommends that homeowners should also keep their shrubs trimmed, so that burglars cannot hide behind them, and install and use appropriate lighting to illuminate entrances and walkways.



Remember that your security is only as good as the weakest link in your security strategy. All elements must be considered in concert with one-another for the most reliable system. Don't rely entirely on an alarm for security. An alarm notifies police and neighbors AFTER the crime event. Most burglars realize that even after the alarm sounds, they have at least 10 minutes before the police arrive. Good quality locks can prevent the burglary from occurring and should be considered as a key element of a homeowner's prevention strategy.

SECURITY CHECKLIST

YES NO

- Are my locks all Grade 2 or better?
- Do all of my doors have deadbolts that extend at least 1"?
- Are all of the deadbolt strikes reinforced to the frame (inside the trim)?
- Do I keep a list of everyone I give a copy of my keys to?
- Do my keys have protection against unauthorized duplication?
- Are my exterior doors all solid wood or wood filled with properly reinforced frames?
- Is my property adequately lighted?
- Are my shrubs trimmed back so that they don't offer any hiding places?

For ideal security, you should be able to answer "Yes" to each of these questions.

If you answered no to any of the above questions, contact your local crime prevention officer, security specialist or locksmith for advice on how to improve your security.

Other sources of information:

The National Crime Prevention Council

1000 Connecticut Ave. NW

13th Floor

Washington, DC 20036

p: 202.466.6272

www.ncpc.org

Medeco Security Locks

3625 Allegheny Drive

Salem, VA 24153

p: 800.839.3157

www.medeco.com

Associated Locksmiths of America

www.ALOA.org

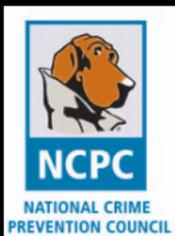
Security Industry Association

635 Slaters Lane; Suite 110

Alexandria, VA 22314

p: 703.683.2075

www.siaonline.org



The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) organization whose primary mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. NCPC publishes books, kits of camera-ready program materials, posters, and informational and policy reports on a variety of crime prevention and community-building subjects. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, a nonpartisan group of national, federal, state, and local organizations committed to preventing crime. It hosts a number of websites that offer prevention tips to individuals, describe prevention practices for community building, and help anchor prevention policy into laws and budgets. It operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service; it also administers the Center for Faith and Service. NCPC manages the McGruff® "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals.



For more than 30 years, Medeco has been a leader in the high-security lock industry. Its high-security locks and key control programs secure people and assets at facilities worldwide, including government and military installations, and a broad range of institutional, commercial, and residential applications. The company's residential high security locks combine its patented locking mechanisms, key control, and the beauty of solid brass decorative hardware to provide unmatched residential security solutions.

Medeco is an ASSA ABLOY Group. ASSA ABLOY is the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of locks and associated products, dedicated to satisfying end-user needs for security, safety, and convenience.