

Deadbolt Locks

A deadbolt lock can provide good protection. When you turn the key, the lock mechanism slides a strong metal bolt from the door into the frame. When you buy a deadbolt lock, make sure that the bolt extends at least one inch from the edge of the door, the connecting screws that hold the lock together are on the inside of the door, the strike plate is attached to the door frame with screws that measure at least three inches in length and that the cylinder has a steel guard around the key section. The cylinder guard should be tapered or rotate freely around the key section to prevent wrenching if it is twisted.



Single Cylinder Deadbolt

A solid bolt, activated by a key from the outside or a knob on the inside, slides into the door frame. The lock cannot be slipped or easily pried. Deadbolt locks are only as good as the door and frame they are installed in.



Double Cylinder Deadbolt

This lock is basically the same as the single cylinder deadbolt, except that it requires a key to be used from either side to function.



MISSION

"To enhance the safety and protect the trust of the citizens of Harris County by enforcing the law with integrity and professionalism."

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HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Crime Prevention Unit



**Home Security
& Your Doors
Burglary Prevention Tips**



Community Engagement Division

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Exterior Doors

Many residential doors feature hollow-core construction and poor locks, which are easily forced or kicked open. For additional protection, you need solid core doors, quality deadbolt locks and security strike plates installed using four inch screws.



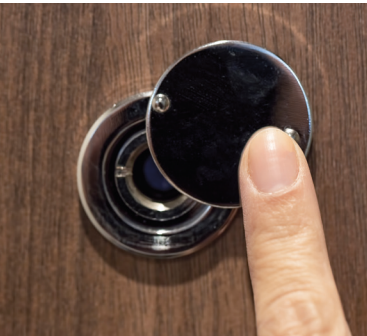
Double Doors

These doors need solid security as they are easily jimmed or forced open. Flush lever bolts installed at the top and bottom of the doors are recommended. Make sure the bolt is long, sturdy and mounted into a solid door frame. These are often referred to as header and footer bolts.



Sliding Doors

Many burglars enter homes through improperly secured arcadia doors. Additional locks and security measures will prevent the door from being opened or lifted out of the track. Screws installed in the track above the sliding door frame will prevent the door from being lifted out of the track. Drill a pilot hole in the top track above, and slightly in, from each corner of the sliding door frame section and install a screw into each hole. Adjust the screws so that the head of the screw just barely clears the frame when it is moved back and forth.



Door Viewers

To avoid opening your door without knowing who is there, install a door viewer. This device has a wide-angle lens to let you see someone standing outside your door without opening it.



Latches/Locks/Spring Latch

Some homes come equipped with this lock. It offers very little protection since the bolt can be slipped with a credit card or knife. This same lock, with a deadbolt latch, provides more protection, but it too can be forced open.

Doors with glass windows or glass ornamentation require double key deadbolt locks. This prevents the burglar from breaking the glass and reaching inside to unlock the door. The key to a double key deadbolt lock should be left in the lock at all times when someone is home to ensure easy exit in the event of a fire or other emergency. (Check with your local fire department to ensure this lock is not prohibited by the fire code before installing.) Glass within 40 inches of a locking device should be evaluated. If removal of the glass cannot be done consider installing security laminate on the glass to help prevent it from being easily broken to access the lock.



Hinges

Many homes have doors that open to the outside, exposing the hinge pins. Despite a good strong lock, the burglar can remove the pins and lift the door from the frame. To prevent this, remove two opposing screws from each leaf of the hinge. Screw a long lag bolt into the frame side of the hinge leaf and saw off the head leaving about 1/2 inch protruding. Drill out the opposite hole to allow the bolt to enter when the door is closed. Do this to the top and bottom hinge plates. The burglar can remove the hinge pins, but the door will remain firmly in place. This technique is good for any door, no matter how the hinges have been placed.



Garage Doors

Standard locks on garage doors are easily pried, allowing a burglar access to your home without detection. Cane bolts and hasps provide more protection. Make certain each side of the garage door is secured to prevent prying open a crawl space. Remove the emergency release cord to prevent a burglar from accessing it from outside and easily opening the door. Any entry doors leading from the garage into the house should be solid core exterior doors and secured with a deadbolt lock. This door should also be equipped with a 190° viewer. The more barriers you provide against the burglar, the better protected you are.