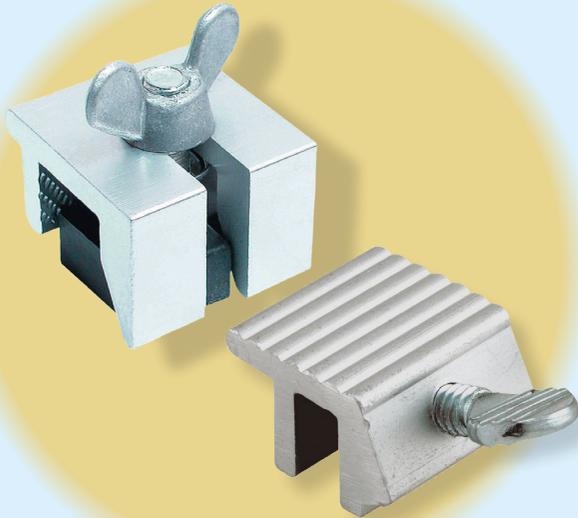


Thumb Screw Locks

This is a type of auxiliary locking device that can be installed easily in the track above the lower portion of your windows that raise and lower or in the track securing the active side of your sliding windows.

They can be installed in minutes and can be found at most local hardware stores, normally at a very low cost. They come in several styles and they can be easily removed in case of an emergency.



There are options available to help secure your windows without resorting to putting bars on your windows.



MISSION

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

Sheriff.Gonzalez@sheriff.hctx.net



SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ

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HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Crime Prevention Unit



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



Community Engagement Division

346-286-3125

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Sliding Windows

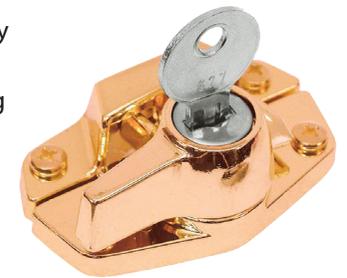
Sliding glass windows should be given the same security treatment as arcadia doors. Use the same supplementary locks or screws in the frame. Screws installed in the track above the sliding window frame will prevent the window from being lifted out the track.

Drill a pilot hole in the top track above each corner of the window frame and install a screw into each hole. Adjust the screws so that the head of the screw just barely clears the frame when is moved back and forth.



Special Key Locks for Windows

You also may purchase special key locks for windows at a hardware store. 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 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. This type of product can be located at some of the larger home improvement stores or through online resources.



Double Hung Windows

An easy, inexpensive way to secure your windows is to use the "pin trick". Drill an angled hole through the top frame of the lower window partially into the frame of the upper window. Then insert the pin (a nail or an eye-bolt that is slighter smaller in diameter than the hole). The window can't be opened until you remove the pin.

Make a second set of holes with windows partially open so you can have ventilation without inviting intruders.

This cannot be done on windows with insulated glasses.



Casement- Crank Windows

These windows are easily secured. The latch should close properly with the window tight. With the latch in a closed position, drill a small hole through the latch frame and handle. Insert a metal pin through the hole to lock the window. For additional security, a small padlock can be used in place of the pin. Key operated placement latches are also available from a locksmith or hardware store. Keep the key handy in case of emergency.

