



Crime Prevention Newsletter, April 2012

Keeping Burglars Out

As of March 24, 2012 there were 169 burglaries in Colorado Springs. Over 60% of these were to residences. It may shock you to learn that according to some national estimates the average time it takes a burglar to break into a house is about eleven seconds. The primary mode of entry in Colorado Springs appears to be through unlocked doors and windows. Also, because it is easy to access most window wells and hide without being seen, another common means to enter a house is for a suspect to hide in a deep widow well and break the window. Vinyl framed windows have also been opened by having enough pressure applied to either force the window off the tracks or to force the locking mechanism to unlatch.

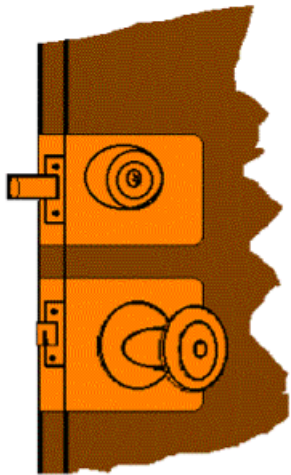
Most home burglaries occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (with an hour off for lunch of course). A burglar may often come to your front door (because it arouses less suspicion than going to the back door) and ring your doorbell. If no one answers the door he may turn his back to the door and give it a sharp 'mule' kick which will pop open most doors. The burglar will then usually go directly to the master bedroom because that's where most easy-to-carry valuables are located. He may dump out the top drawer to your dresser (because that's where most women keep their jewelry), rifle through the closets (because that's where you are most likely to keep cash, digital cameras, binoculars, and other valuable items), and then grab a pillowcase from your bed to carry the loot in. The burglar will be done and gone in mere minutes. The FBI says the average home burglary nets a little over \$2,000 worth of personal property.

ENTRY DOORS

One easy addition to your home that will help prevent burglaries is Deadbolt lock. You can buy a good deadbolt lock for less than 40 to 50 dollars, so it's an inexpensive way to deter burglars. A few details to keep in mind when shopping for a deadbolt lock are:

- Look for a lock with a steel bolt (a case-hardened steel bolt is even better). A bolt constructed from a softer metal such as brass can be sawn off with a hacksaw.
- Purchase a deadbolt lock with at least a one inch throw (the distance the bolt extends into the door jamb) that way a burglar cannot just jimmy open the door by inserting a pry bar between the door and the frame and force the door open.
- If a burglar can attach a wrench to the cylinder guard (that piece of metal surrounding the key slot) he can twist the cylinder right off the door. So, get a deadbolt lock with a tapered cylinder guard which makes it impossible to get a wrench-hold on it.
- If you have glass windows on your door buy a double-cylinder deadbolt which is one that is keyed on both sides (as opposed to one with a thumb-turn on the inside). Be sure to keep a key nearby (but out of reach of the window) in case of an emergency.

A properly installed steel deadbolt with a one-inch throw and three inch screws securing the strike plate to the door frame can withstand as much as 750 pounds of pressure, so no simple 'mule' kick is going to open it.

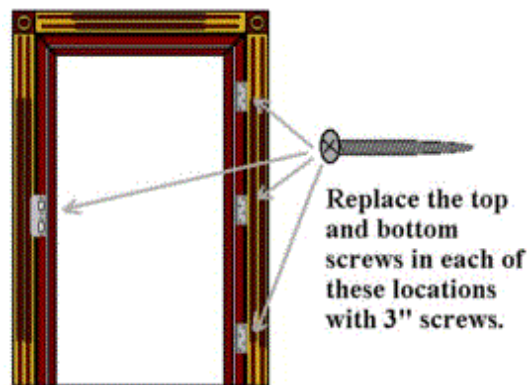


Dead bolts should be used on all doors and should have the following features:

1. Preferably a double cylinder requiring a key to lock and unlock both sides.
2. At least a 1" bolt.
3. A free wheeling cylinder guard to prevent the lock from being twisted off with a pipe wrench.

Door with a Deadbolt

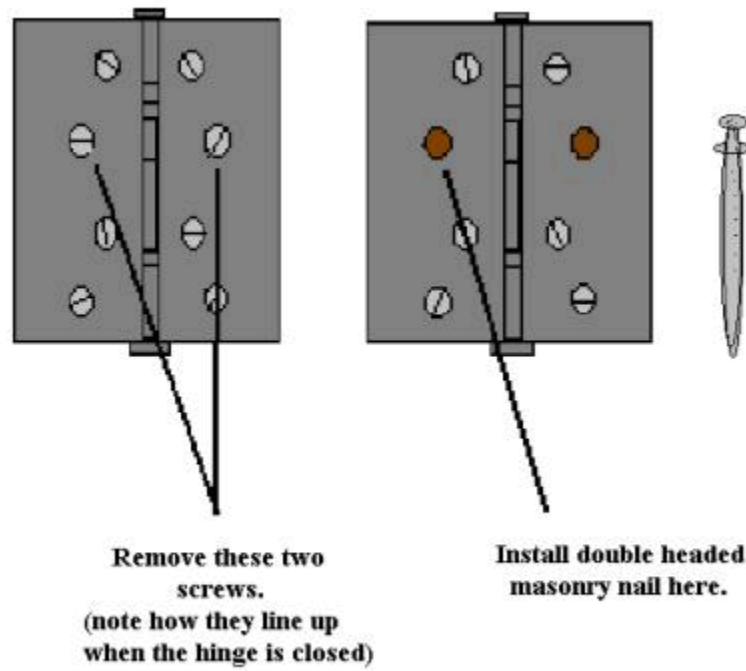
Along with using a good deadbolt you will need to reinforce the door frame. The frame should be attached directly to the framing structure of the building. The hinges and the strike plates for the dead bolt and latch should be mounted to the frame with at least 3" screws attaching them to the structural framing as well.



Doorframe with at Least 3" Screws

Often the problem encountered with doors is not the door itself but the hardware used to attach and secure the door. The following are some examples of the problems and corrective actions that can be taken.

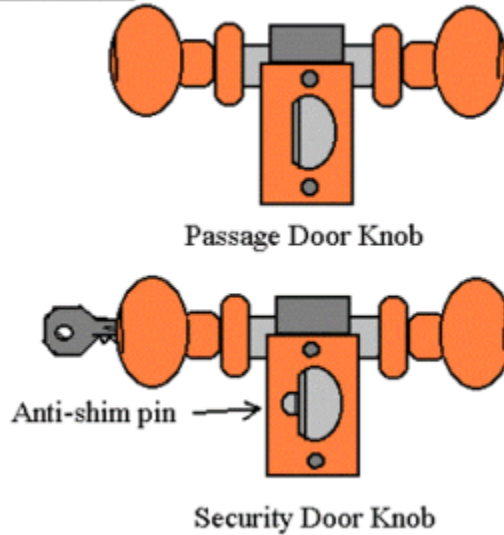
- Hinges. If the hinges to the door are exposed to the outside the pins can be removed or the hinge could be cut, allowing the door to be opened on the opposite side of the lock
- One method of prevention is to pin the hinge as shown below. This will prevent the door from being removed even if the hinge has been cut or the pin removed.



PINNING HINGE

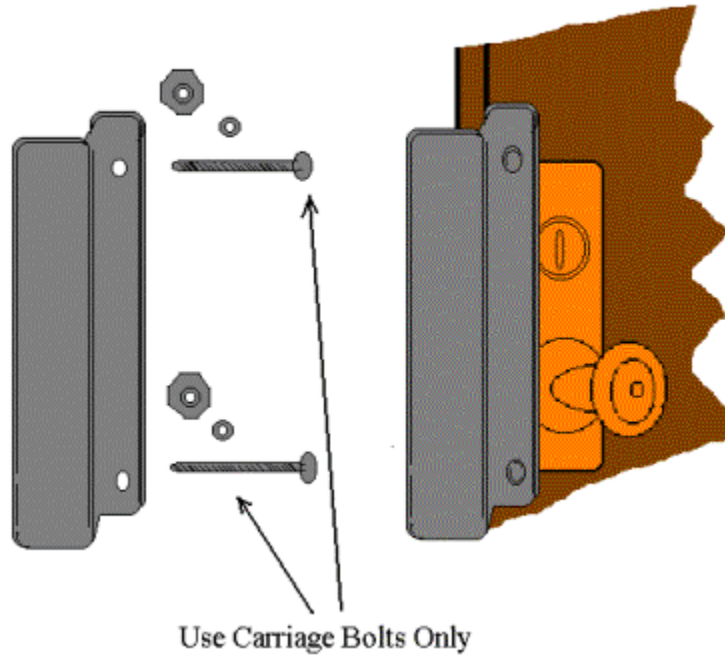
- Door knobs latches. External door knobs have an anti shim pin on the latch as shown in the diagram below. When the door is closed, this pin does not enter the recess in the door jam for the latch. If the door is not properly aligned or not installed correctly, the pin will enter the recess for the latch and the latch can be easily jimmied.

DOOR KNOBS



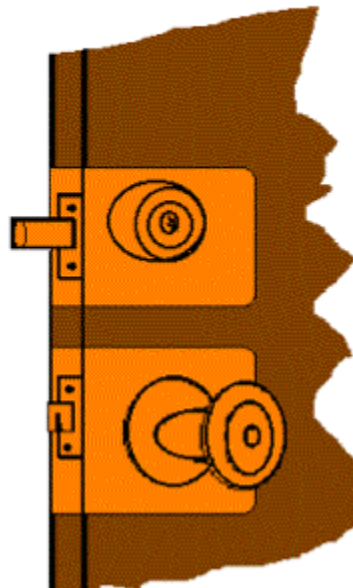
- Offset guard plate. If your door does not close flush, this plate can be easily installed to protect against forced entry. See diagram below.

Offset Guard Plate



- Install a lock. This is a brass and steel plate that wraps around the door to reinforce the locks or damaged doors. There are two types depending on how your door is set up.

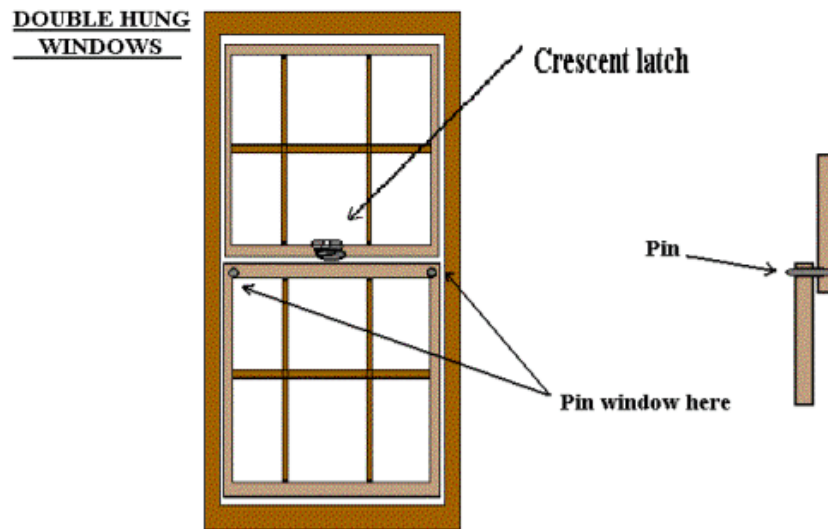
Install-A-Lock



WINDOWS

Windows are the most vulnerable of all points of entry. We can lock a home up like Fort Knox, but this is not very inviting.

- Our best defense for large front windows is a good alarm system. One that will indicate glass breaking, either through vibration or noise as well as motion detectors inside to indicate entry.
- Some home may have double hung windows. These windows are also very vulnerable. One misunderstood point about these windows is the latch used to lock the windows. The factory installed latch is known as a Crescent Latch and is just that. A latch not a lock. The purpose of this latch is to hold the top section of the window from falling open.
- A locking system needs to be applied. The windows can be pinned as shown in the diagram below, this works extremely well and multiple pin holes can be made allowing the window to be opened partially while still preventing the window from being opened enough to gain entry. Also there are key locks available for purchase at many hardware stores that mount to the window sill and hold the window closed



Crescent Latch



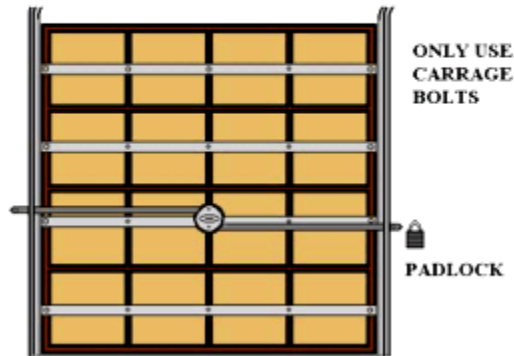
**Note: This is a latch
not a lock**

OVERHEAD DOORS

Overhead doors or garage doors are often overlooked as a security risk. Some older overhead doors are constructed of a wood frame with particle board panels. These panels are very easily kicked in. One simple way to secure these types of doors is to secure flat metal bars across the panels as shown in the diagram. The most important thing that can be done is to lock the door. If you have an automatic garage door opener and are going away for any length of time, don't depend on this opener to secure your door.

OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR

NOTE THE STEEL BARS PLACED
ACROSS EACH PANEL.



CSPD Code Enforcement information.

Ever wonder who to call regarding graffiti that turns up overnight? There is a graffiti hotline, and the number is: **634-5713**. The Colorado Springs Police Department's website: www.springsgov.com/police the link to take is on the left side of the page; Community Groups & Services, the next link is Graffiti. On this page you can submit an online form. There are also definitions of graffiti and a timeline to remove graffiti, for residents to become less vulnerable.

Please report blighted conditions in your neighborhood to the Colorado Springs Police Dept. Code Enforcement Unit at **444-7891** or online at springsgov.com (select the Code Enforcement complaint form link). Blighted conditions can contribute to crime and some examples are uncared for vacant houses with broken windows and tall weeds; unsanitary conditions such as an accumulation of trash; junk/inoperable vehicles on the property; junk accumulation on property such as scrap metal, tires, old appliances, etc. Please contact the Code Enforcement Unit if you have any questions.

Neighborhood Justice

Neighborhood Justice, what is it? Neighborhood Justice is a service that the District Attorney's Office provides for issues involving; neighbors, criminals, legal, etc. The service helps mediate disputes that neighbors cannot negotiate on their own. For example a neighbor has an issue, paperwork is filled out, the report is sent to the other involved party, and the two parties meet with a mediator for a consensus to follow through voluntarily. The Neighborhood Justice program has a 94 percent achievement level for success. For more information their phone number is **520-6016**.

Crime Prevention Training

Dates and times for Crime Prevention Training are found in the CSPD Crime Prevention Calendar at <http://www.springsgov.com/Calendar.aspx?SectionID=67>. Classes are open to the public with No RSVP required and are free of charge. Training will be held in the Community Room of the respective CSPD Division.

Upcoming April Crime Prevention classes:

- April 12th, 6-8 P.M., Terrorism Awareness, Falcon Division
- April 26th, 7 P.M., Personal Safety, Stetson Hills Division

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency:

- * For life threatening emergencies, **please dial 911.**

Colorado Springs Non-Emergency:

- * To report a non-life threatening crime or suspicious activity in Colorado Springs, please dial (719) 444-7000

Other Non-Emergency:

- * El Paso County Sheriff, 390-5555;
- * CO State Patrol, 635-0385
On the Road, *CSP

CSPD Patrol Divisions:

- * Falcon, 444-7240;
- * Gold Hill, 385-2100;
- * Sand Creek, 444-7270;
- * Stetson Hills, 444-3140

CSPD Crime Prevention Offices:

- * Falcon, 444-7246;
- * Gold Hill, 385-2117;
- * Sand Creek, 444-7276;
- * Stetson Hills, 444-3168

Police Operations Center

705 S Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
* 444-7595

Other Contact Information:

- * Crime Stoppers, 634-STOP (7867);
- * Drug Hotline (Narcotics Tips), 444-3111;
- * Impound Lot, 667-2777