
Hinges with non-removable pins must be fitted on all outside doors; otherwise the doors could be removed.

Glass panels adjacent to external door frames should be protected by grills anchored solidly to the walls or replaced with unbreakable plastic glazing.

Criminals frequently enter a residence through a side or rear entrance door since these are often hidden from street traffic and are inadequately illuminated. Many of these same doors have glass panes which make entry an easy operation unless the panes are adequately protected.

Side and rear doors constructed of wooden panels should be strengthened with 16 gauge sheet steel or replaced with solid wooden doors.

Unprotected windows pose very little deterrent to burglars. With little noise they can break or cut the glass to gain entry. For this reason persons living in high crime areas should cover their ground floor windows with decorative grills.

Transoms larger than 20 by 30 cm must be protected in the same manner as windows.

Air-conditioners and ventilator covers have been removed from their frames or mountings by burglars to gain access to residences. These should be made secure with steel grills.

Safe Havens

In some residences in high crime areas, the occupants have turned bedrooms into safe havens by installing two large sliding bolts on each door and fitting grills over the bedroom windows. To ensure that the doors will withstand a forceful attack, both they and their frames should be of solid construction and the supporting hinges made of heavy gauge steel or brass.

In homes where there are children it may be desirable to include two or more bedrooms and a bathroom in the protected area. This arrangement might entail installing an additional door in a common corridor which serves all these rooms.

In some parts of the world the whole of the second floor has been converted into a safe haven by installing grilled doors at the top of each staircase and fitting grills over all windows and balcony doors on that floor. Where there are no balcony doors one or more window grills must be hinged to provide an escape route in the event of fire.