

Windows

Access via a window is a favoured method of unlawful entry for many burglars.

Window locks offer a minimum level of protection which may be sufficient to deter an inexperienced opportunist, but they will not, of course, withstand a determined attempt at forced entry.

Leverage of the window frame with a jemmy or similar hand-tool, or simply breaking and removing the glass pane will generally be sufficient to gain access.

It is therefore necessary, in many instances, to fit steel bar grilles to windows, particularly those in vulnerable locations.

The following specification should be given to the locksmith or builder when commissioning such work.

Useful advice, guidance and locksmiths can be found at the Master Locksmiths Association. Visit http://www.locksmiths.co.uk/trade_division/guidelines/index.htm. This will provide you with the latest available products to meet your requirements.

Construction

Grilles to comprise vertical solid steel bars at least 20mm in diameter or square section spaced at not more than 100mm centres. The bars to pass through and be welded to tie bars of flat steel not less than 35mm x 6mm spaced not more than 600mm apart.

Fixing Grilles to be fixed, preferably on the inside of the window opening, using one of the following methods:-

- Bars to be grouted into the brickwork at top and bottom to a depth of at least 50mm and set back at least 50mm from the surface of the wall.

Or

- Tie bars to be cut, splayed and grouted into brickwork to a depth of at least 50mm and set back at least 50mm from the surface of the wall.

Or

- The bars to be welded to a frame of angle iron with a minimum dimension of 35mm x 35mm x 3mm which must be fixed to the brickwork surrounding the window (NOT to the window frame) by either 75mm x 9mm Rawl bolts or 75mm No. 12 countersunk woodscrews with suitable proprietary wall plugs at 300mm intervals all round the opening. Bolts or screws to be spot welded to the frame.

Or

- Grilles made by Expamet Securilath reference 2073f (<http://www.expandedmetalcompany.co.uk/mesh-index.php>) in angle iron frames similarly bolted into the brickwork around windows using Rawl bolts are also recommended.

Additional information: There is also an insurance standard, known as LPS 1175 issue 5, for physical protection which can be used for window grilles or any other form of physical protection. It is a performance standard which means the grille/shutter/door etc., can be made of any material providing it stands up to the test. The standard was produced by the Loss Prevention Council (LPC) who were taken over by the Building Research Establishment (BRE). The standard is generally recognized as a worthy one

There are a number of manufacturers who make equipment to the standard.

