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.

Padlocks

When selecting padlocks to secure your garage door, storage shed, fence gate or toolbox, do not economize. Low-priced locks are made from low quality materials and easily pried open or cut with bolt cutters. Look for these features when purchasing a padlock:
- Double locking shackle at the toe and heel
- Hardened steel shackle, larger is best
- Five pin tumbler
- Key retention feature
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.

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.

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.

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.

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