

# Physical Security



## Security

There's plenty you can do to keep your property safe from the curious or the more devious. Good physical security – basically the measures you put in place to deny access to yards, sites and buildings – means that they are ultimately harder to break into. Needs differ depending upon factors such as location, the physical features of the site, yard or building and what's in the building. So its most likely that a combination of methods will be needed to suit your particular situation.



### Walls and fences

<b>Security basics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2+ metres high</li> <li>• Soundly built</li> <li>• Hard to climb</li> </ul>
<b>Extras</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Razor or branded wire on top of the fence</li> <li>• Security patrol to supervise the perimeter</li> <li>• Electrified fence</li> </ul>
<b>Gates</b>	Gates should be lockable, and their hinges protected from attack and secured with close shackle padlocks or padlock sheaths. All gates, with the exception of the main gate, should be secured from the inside.

### Suit of armour

Your building should be in good condition, the walls, floors, roof, doors and windows need to be secure. Irrespective of what the building is made of, if it's in good condition then gaining unauthorised access is usually a lot more difficult.

Typical weak points include doors and windows, and roofs or walls where these are made of lightweight cladding such as metal or fibre cement. Intruders can also access a building from the crawl space below the floor if the building is on piles. Here are some other quick facts:

- Brick, masonry and concrete structures are generally stronger than those framed with lightweight cladding.
- In some situations, it may be more practical to increase the security of a specific area within a building rather than throughout the entire building. Reinforcing walls, roofs and ceilings with fibre cement board is a way to secure valuable plant and stock so that they have an added layer of protection.
- Protect skylights and plastic light panels with bars or grills on the underside of the roof.

## Doors

Doors and door frames should be in good condition and secure in the wall opening.

Where possible doors should be lockable from the inside, and all locks should be suitable for the type of door and of high quality.

Fire exit doors should be equipped with appropriate locking mechanisms that comply with the New Zealand Building Code. Such doors must be lockable from the inside and out.

Secure French doors and ranch sliders from the inside with lockable bolts.

If using padlocks ensure they have a close shackle protected by a metal sheath, preventing attack.

## Windows

- Windows and window frames should be in good condition and secure in the wall opening.
- Laminated glass is best for security purposes – as you've got two or more sheets of glass separated by a vinyl sheet and laminated together under pressure.
- To improve the strength of standard glass you can fit a clear plastic film to its inside surface. This prevents the glass shattering when attacked.
- Louvered windows are very weak and the glass can be removed without making a sound., Security can be improved by fixing the louvre panels into the guides or fitting security bars over the window.
- Security of window latches can be improved by fitting lockable latches or window locks on windows that open.
- For premises with large glass frontages such as shops the install steel shutters or roller grilles to reduce the chance of attack.

The physical security can be further bolstered by installing a monitored intruder alarm system, having a patrol response should the alarm be triggered and having a security guard do random patrols of the site after normal hours.

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