

Lock Snapping Crime Prevention Advice

We have had a number of lock snapping burglaries around the Selly Oak area recently. Please click on the following link for information to secure your home as darker nights are approaching:

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights/burglary>

Lock snapping

Lock Snapping is a method used by home invaders which involves snapping a particular type of lock cylinder, allowing the burglar to quickly and easily gain access to your home. If the right amount of force is applied to the cylinder, it can break and give access to the locking mechanism.

Key locks that are at risk of lock snapping are those of Euro Cylinder profiles, and locks that extend beyond 3mm of the handle. The further the lock cylinder protrudes from the door the more prone to tampering it becomes as it is easier to grip and take hold of, but even if a lock cylinder doesn't protrude from the handle it still isn't immune to tampering.

Euro Cylinders are usually found in uPVC doors. Different types of Euro Cylinder include: The Single Cylinder, which provides key access from one side only, The Double Cylinder which provides key access from the front and back of the door and The Double Cylinder with Thumbturn which has key access from one side and uses a thumbturn on the other side of the door. The cylinders are available with different types of locking mechanisms, these could be disc tumbler, pin tumbler, and wafer tumbler locks. Cylinder Locks can come in different sizes and profiles to suit particular door sizes, but the profile prone to lock snapping by burglars is known as the Euro Profile.

Anti-Snap Locks

Locks that are of a TS007 3 Star standard (also known as 'anti-snap' cylinders) are locks that meet the requirements to withstand lock snapping attempts.

Anti-Snap cylinders have a 'snap-off' section integrated which will come away if a burglar was to try and snap the lock, making the cylinder shorter, thus making it more difficult to grasp. With the help of built in grip defenders it makes getting hold of the cylinder even harder. Not only that but anti-snap locks have a hardened bar which won't snap, it will only flex making snapping almost impossible.

Please take advice on board and look into extras measures to protect your home going forward. This will be beneficial in deterring offenders and spread the word about anti-snap locks.

Selly Oak Neighbourhood Team

West Midlands Police