



Window Security:

"Mr. ___ stated he came home and noticed two small rocks on the bedroom floor under the broken bedroom window. Entry was not gained because the window is locked and pinned shut. Window is on the side of the house concealed by bushes."

Grand Rapids Police report

That window over the kitchen sink that you think is too high, is just what the burglar is looking for. Recently, a Grand Rapids woman had to fight for her life when a rapist pulled a table up to her house to get to an unlocked window.

Intruders don't really have to "case" your house, they simply walk the streets looking for an easy target. An open window at 3:00 a.m. with all the lights off means easy entry. A laptop computer or briefcase hidden in the back seat of

your car will pay for an addict's next trip to the drug house. People looking for a few dollars or an item they can trade for drugs depend on citizens feeling safe and getting complacent about home security.

WINDOW PINNING:

"The (rape) victim told officer she didn't know how the suspect got in. Checking the exterior we located a rear bedroom window that was propped open..." GRPD incident report

Intruders like to cut window screens, quietly raise unlocked windows and step right in. Some will go as far as prying a locked window open with a pry bar or screw driver. Window pins make this nearly impossible. Pinning is cheap, effective and recommended by home security experts

world-wide. Window pinning forces intruders to break the glass, pull all the pieces out, find the pin (bolt) and remove it. Most never even try. It takes too much time, makes noise and increases the risks. It is rare that a properly pinned window is the point of entry in home invasions.

How to Pin your Double Hung Windows

(Instructions for wood sashes)

1. Measure the thickness of the lower sash and add one-half to three quarters of an inch to that measurement.
2. Mark a 5/16 inch drill bit so you will know when you have drilled a hole as deep as the total measurement.
3. Drill a hole in the window at the point indicated by Point #1 in the diagram. This hole will enable you to pin the window in the closed position.
4. Open the window four to six inches, insert the drill bit in the same hole that you drilled in the lower sash and drill the one-half inch hole in the upper sash as indicated by Point # 2 in the diagram. This hole will enable you

5. Buy hinge pins or hex-head bolts* that are one-quarter inch in diameter and the length of your total measurement (about 3 to 3 1/2 inches long).
6. Insert a bolt in the hole in each window of your home.
7. Test the bolts to see if they slide in and out so the window can be opened, closed and pinned easily. Test also to see that with a little jiggling of the window frame the bolts don't work loose. This can happen when the holes drilled are much larger than the pin used, or when the hole is not drilled at a downward angle.

* Or you can purchase pins designed especially for this purpose at most hardware stores.

The same technique can be used to secure many types of sliding doors and sliding windows.

