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Lock Snapping & Drilling

Lock snapping involves snapping the lock cylinder in two by applying force and removing the outside part to expose the lock mechanism, allowing the door to be unlocked. This technique is unsophisticated, not requiring any real skill or experience – just bodily pressure and force.

Criminals may also try to drill locks to damage the internal pins, allowing the door to be unlocked.

Whilst you may think that all the multi-locking points on your door make it secure, it's important to realise they are all operated by the cylinder – this is the weakest point and if compromised all the locking points are rendered useless.

Locks most at risk of lock snapping and drilling are those fitted with euro profile cylinders



To prevent lock snapping and drilling Police Scotland would advise householders to:

• Upgrade any cylinder locks to one that has either achieved a 3 star rating under TS 007 or the Sold Secure Diamond Standard (SS312).





Note the pre scored line at the front of the barrel resulting in the tip snapping but locking mechanism remaining intact.

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- Enhanced security handles achieving a 2 star rating under TS 007 should also be considered.
- Cylinder locks can be changed by yourself. However, it is vital that they are measured
 properly to ensure the right size for your door. They should **NOT** be fitted so that they are
 left protruding from the door unit or handle.



 If you are going to ask someone to upgrade your locks for you consider using the Master Locksmith Association. Always obtain 3 quotes for the fitting of new locks to the standards referenced above and pick the one that best suits your circumstances.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved. Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.

For further advice contact

Edinburghpreventandintervent@scotland.police.uk