

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Facts about Glass



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Glass Facts

In most cases burglars will break the glass to open a door or window, but will not climb through the broken window pane itself. Remember:

- Double glazing does not provide extra security.
- Wired glass is for fire doors and has no security properties.
- Toughened glass is not security glass it is safety glass.
- Laminated glass is the only glass which combines safety with security.

Laminated glass consists of two or more sheets of ordinary glass, sandwiched together by a PVB (polyvinyl butyral) interlayer. Should the glazing be attacked, the broken shards of glass will remain adhered to the interlayer which also absorbs some of the shock, reducing damage to passers-by and continuing to provide a secure barrier and preventing access. The more layers of glass the more secure it becomes.



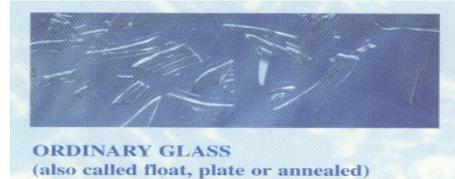
LAMINATED GLASS

For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

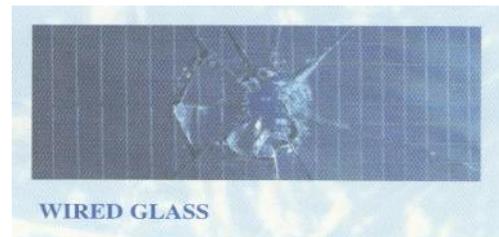
For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)

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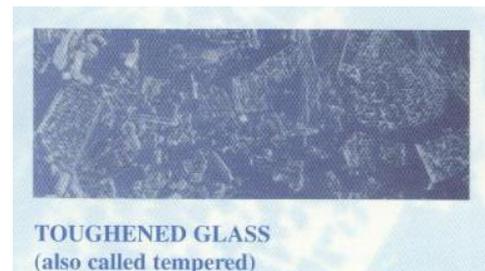
Ordinary Glass or Float glass is the most common type of glass found in windows and doors. It is readily available, relatively cheap and easily cut to size. However it is fragile and breaks easily into long dagger like shards which can cause severe injuries and expose premises to the weather. Not recommended for its security properties.



Wired Glass is ordinary glass with a network of wires embedded in it. Although there is a type of wired glass that is a safety glass. In general it breaks almost as easily as ordinary glass and does not make a noise when smashed leaving a neat hole with dangerous edges and protruding wires. It has limited transparency because of the wires but it does have excellent fire resistant properties.



Toughened Glass or Tempered Glass looks the same as ordinary glass but has undergone a special heat treatment that makes it about five times stronger than ordinary glass so it breaks much less easily. When hit with a sharp object or with enough force it will disintegrate into thousands of very small pieces. Because of the heat treatment it cannot be cut and needs to be specially ordered to size. This type of glass is great for safety but not for security.



An alternative to glass is clear Polycarbonate sheets which are manufactured under a number of different trade names. These can be recommended for windows that are a constant target of damage, but it is very expensive.

Security film can be retro fitted over existing glass to upgrade its security properties. There are many different types and grades of window film and expert advice needs to be sought. It needs to be fitted by the manufacturer to ensure it will be effective.

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