

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Lock Snapping



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Norfolk and Suffolk are some of the safest places in the UK and have some of the lowest crime rates in England.

However we need to keep ahead of the burglars and be aware of the new techniques they are using to break into houses.

One of these new techniques is called **lock snapping**. It can only be used where a euro style cylinder is used, ie typically like those fitted in uPVC doors

At the moment this is a relatively rare method of gaining entry in our area but we are anticipating that it will become more popular.

Almost all euro cylinders could be susceptible.

However the remedy is quite easy to carry out either by someone good at DIY or by a locksmith or window fitter.



For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

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

For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

It's not easy to tell from the outside if yours is a vulnerable lock, it would need to be dismantled. Although this is fairly simple to do, our advice is to contact a registered locksmith for advice.

If you have a **Secured by Design** door fitted after 2010 you can be confident that it will have a "Break Secure" lock. Please note this applies only to **Secured by Design** doors and not all doors. You should be able to locate a secured by design motif on the door.

So what is "lock snapping" ?



The thief first has to gain access to the cylinder. Once this has been done the cylinder can be easily snapped at the weakest point by force, giving the thief access to the lock cams which enables them to open the door.

It can take as little a few seconds.

So what can you do

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There are now a range of replacement cylinders which are designed to resist snapping and we would recommend that you consider replacing your existing cylinders with these “Break Secure” cylinders.

These cylinders have been designed in a way that they will snap in a predetermined position leaving intact a portion of the cylinder that will still provide security and still require key operation to open, thus preventing the easy manipulating of the locking system. The illustration shows clearly the carefully positioned snapping point.



This is a photo of a Break Secure Euro cylinder style lock

A qualified locksmith can offer a full installation and upgrade service to meet your needs; or a replacement break secure euro cylinder can be purchased from any recognised DIY store.

All new cylinder locks should bear the new standard, TS007 3 star which was introduced earlier this year.

To find the **most secure lock cylinder to prevent lock snapping** which suits your security requirements, visit the [Master Locksmiths' Association website](#).

The Master Locksmiths' Association website www.locksmiths.co.uk also provides a list of registered locksmiths who will be able to provide advice and information and give you practical help to ensure your locks are suitable.

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