

Lock Snapping



Key Points to Consider

- ◆ Replace your lock cylinders if they are not anti-snap
- ◆ Use locks to a standard of TS007 3 Star
- ◆ Always replace your locks when moving to a new house

Suffolk is one of the safest places in the UK and has some of the lowest crime rates in England; however we need to keep ahead of 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 unusual method of gaining entry in our area but we want people to be prepared in case it becomes more popular.



Almost all euro cylinders could be susceptible.

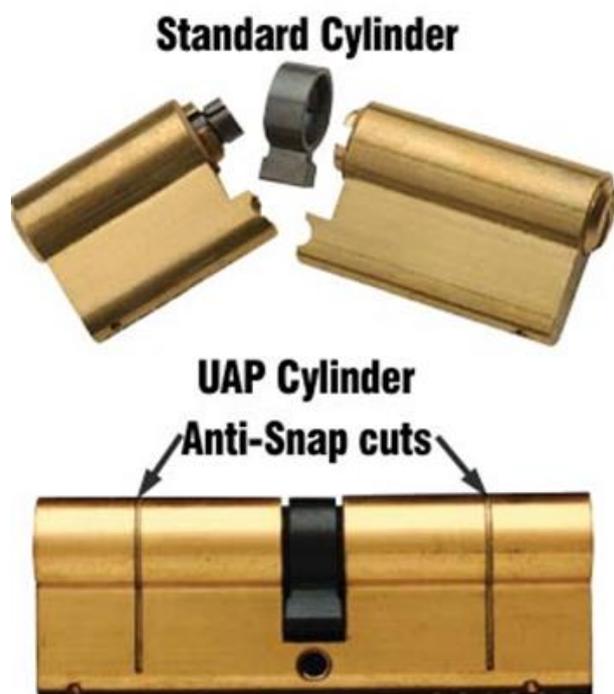
However the remedy is quite easy to carry out either by someone good at DIY or by a locksmith or window fitter.



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

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 as a few seconds.

So what can you do?

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.

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**.

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.

If you chose to undertake the replacement of the euro cylinder yourself, it is a relatively easy task. The following may help.

Measuring your Cylinder

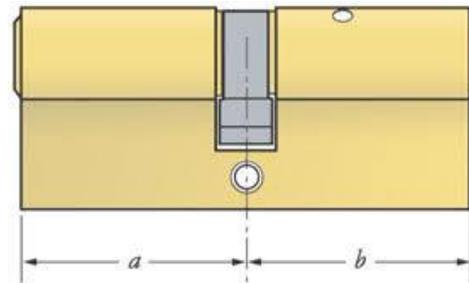
When buying your new cylinder it is important that you get the right size cylinder.

The size of cylinder you need is determined by the thickness of the door and handle combination.

There are many sizes available and you will need to be careful that you measure the cylinder accurately (one size will not fit all).

It is possible to measure a door cylinder in the door, but to be sure it's best to remove it first.

The measurements are taken from the centre of the fixing screw. In most cases the internal dimension is A and the external dimension is B



You should ensure that the size you order will fit to look like the one below.



Replacing the Cylinder

Insert the key into the lock

Remove the locking screw on the leading edge of the door

Gently wiggle the key and withdraw the existing cylinder

Install the new TS007 3 star cylinder and replace the locking screw.



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”

[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)



All your policing questions answered

<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/>



Secured by Design. (SBD) The official UK Police flagship initiative combining the principles of 'Designing Out Crime' with physical security. We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products. <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:
<http://www.soldsecure.com/>

CrimeStoppers.

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Help after crime—Contact Victim Support for free and confidential support
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999

