

# Home Security Advice

First of all I would like to thank the readers for the positive feedback that I received from the last article. Those that read that article may remember that I highlighted a security risk with the locks on uPVC, Composite & Patio doors. These types of door rely on a device called a Euro-cylinder to activate the locking mechanism. 90% of Euro-cylinders are vulnerable to attack because they can be snapped off with very little force. Burglars have now cottoned onto this problem & are using it to break into houses in seconds. In fact the issue has become that widespread in Yorkshire, the police have issued a notice, warning the public about this problem. This problem is compounded if the door is fitted with a cylinder that is too long for the door. The photographs below help illustrate this problem.



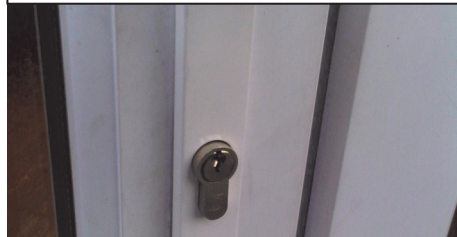
**Poorly sized Euro-cylinder – This cylinder protrudes approximately 10mm away from the handle plate.**



**X VERY HIGH RISK**

This cylinder can be snapped very easily. This should be changed to a flush fitting or Snap-Safe cylinder immediately.

**Poorly sized Euro-cylinder – This lock protrudes approximately 5mm away from the handle plate.**



**X HIGH RISK**

Better, but still a high risk, locks should NOT protrude more than 3mm past the handle plate – Consider changing to a flush fitting or Snap safe cylinder ASAP

**Correctly sized Euro-cylinder – This lock sits flush to the handle plate.**



**! MEDIUM RISK**

This lock has been correctly sized for the door, however there is still a risk because the lock will still protrude if the handle is removed.

**HIGH SECURITY SNAP-SAFE Euro-cylinder fitted.**



**✓ LOW RISK**

These Euro-cylinders have been designed to snap at a safe point which helps prevent a burglar from accessing the locking mechanism.

As you can see from the photographs, the more the cylinder protrudes, the easier it is for a burglar to snap it off. The standard recommendation is that the cylinder should not protrude more than 3 mm away from the handle plate. If it does then it should be swapped with a lock that fits flush to the handle plate or swapped for a High Security Snap-safe Cylinder. These locks are designed to snap at a safe point which stops a burglar gaining access to the locking mechanism & helps prevent them entering your home.

To find out more about Snap-safe cylinders or talk about other ways of protecting your homes, call ARVCO Locksmith Services **FREE on 0800 285 177** or visit our Website at

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