



STEEL  
WINDOW  
ASSOCIATION

# FACT SHEET

## SECURITY



There are many different materials of choice when specifying window and door frames; however steel has long been recognised as a secure material, due to its inherent strength, which makes steel framed windows and doors difficult to force open by the opportunist thief.

Whilst traditional hardware is still available, the market has evolved and the beauty of slim steel profiled window systems can be complimented with modern enhanced security hardware and features.

Centuries ago, a cottage-style steel frame was popular due to its ability to still let in light, but also stop intruders being able to enter the buildings they were often seen in. With glass that was still fragile, the space between the frames was too small to be able to climb through.

Today, cottage-style windows can be fitted with interlocked steel glazing bars welded or tenon-riveted into steel frames.

The weakest link in a window assembly subject to forced entry is the method of attaching the hardware. Screws and rivets can too easily be torn out of the base material, but hardware mountings held by steel screws threaded into steel frames are more resistant.

## GLASS

With modern glass technology, the cottage style small pane T bar window is no longer the only option for security.

Beautiful, fully glazed frames that can often be seen in French doors and window walling can give cause for concern. For particularly vulnerable areas, laminated glass is classified as a security product, which can make breaking and entering through the glass pane very difficult.

Adhesive sealants and metal beads used to secure the glass in most steel-framed windows ensure that it is not easily removed from the frame.

# HANDLES

All handle designs are available in key-locking. Four different locking point options are currently available for all types of property. These are single, duplex, triplex, and concealed multipoint.

The more locking points, the better the security. The latest concealed multipoint systems offer the best security option. The sizing of your window or door along with the vulnerability of location affects the fittings required for the security of your property.

A wide range of furniture for windows and doors is offered by SWA members. Handles are available in a range of styles in both key-locking and non-locking with night vent capability to allow fresh air into the property without leaving the window exposed to burglars.



## CONCEALED MULTIPOINT

Concealed Multipoint is a new addition to the steel window industry. By placing multiple locking points along the window or door (hence the name!) it stops the entry point from being susceptible.

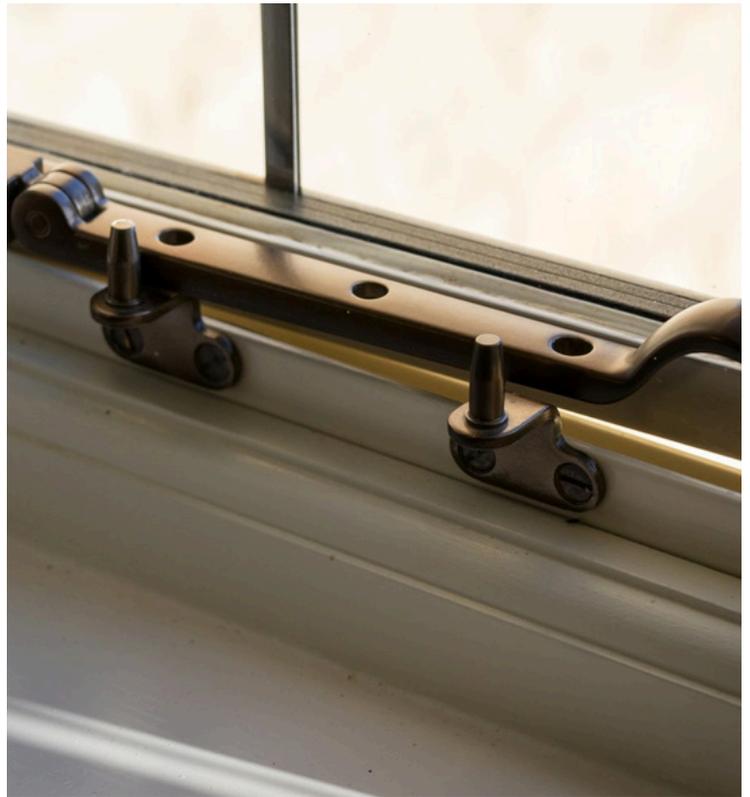
Previously, multipoint systems involved fitting deadbolts and gearboxes—but they have evolved to be concealed, fitting neatly within the sleek, steel frame.

## PEG STAYS

When Peg Stays are fitted to a window, they offer stronger security by effectively pinning the window into place.

This makes the window harder to break or force open from the outside of the property. Additional security is available in the form of key-locking brackets for peg stays. Particularly on fan lights and top-hung windows.

Slide stays offer an adjustable opening for the window when open into position, this keeps them open enough to allow air to circulate but can also restrict the window opening to stop intruders from getting through the gap.



## HINGES

Hinges are an integral part of the window or door – Due to hinges often being fitted to the outside of the building, they are often seen as vulnerable by burglars. However, standard security features built into exposed hinges provide a greater level of security.



# BOLTS

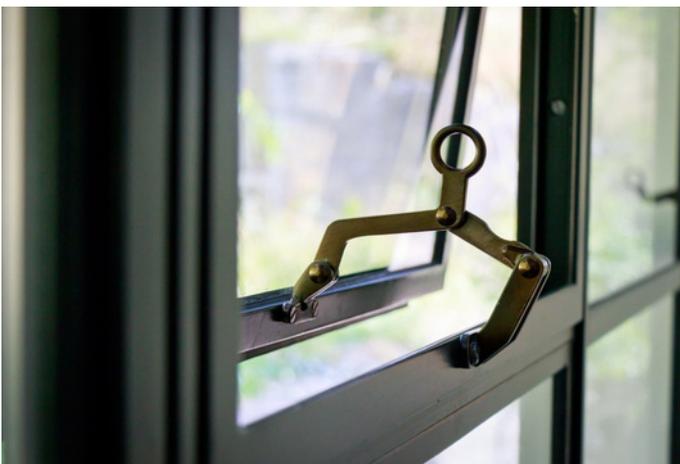
Bolts can be fitted to the top and bottom of doors as an extra safety feature. They brace against the frame to lock it into place much like a peg stay.

They strengthen doors and use the inherent design and strength of the steel frame. Optional features such as key-locking bolts offer enhanced protection.



# RESTRICTORS

Optional concealed or face-fix restrictors can be fitted to reduce the gap between the frame and the opening vent for potential intrusion. Key releasable restrictors are also an option to limit access but ensuring ventilation.





The Steel Window Association represents the great majority of UK steel manufacturers, ranging in size from the smallest of craft-based companies that specialise in replacement and repair work, particularly on windows for heritage buildings, through to large, multi-site companies that manufacture and install windows in literally every type of building. There is not a single steel window project of any description, anywhere in the UK, that one of the SWA members cannot handle.

All windows produced by SWA members in hot rolled steel sections to BS.6510 are protected by the hot dip galvanizing process in accordance with BS EN ISO 1461. Cold formed steel section windows are also available and all steel section windows can be supplied with a decorative finish available in a range of colours. This process, in which polyester powder is electrostatically applied then heat fused under factory controlled conditions to BS EN 13438, gives a higher quality, attractive and durable finish with a life expectancy of at least 15 years.

The Steel Window Association supports its member companies with a wide ranging service relating to product development, market research and promotion and the SWA encourages each member to operate an independently certified quality management system. Every contract undertaken has the personal attention of senior management and SWA member companies operate established and flexible services in window design, manufacture, installation and repair and refurbishment

