



What Is A Deadbolt Lock And Why Does It Offer Good Security?

Deadbolt locks: The deadbolt lock has a **bolt** that must be activated by a key or thumb turn. It offers good security because it is not spring activated and cannot be “jimmied” opened with a knife blade or credit card. For this reason it is best to install deadbolt locks on solid wood, steel or fiberglass doors. These doors resist forced entry because they are not easily battered or bored.

Hollow core doors made of soft, thin wood cannot stand much battering and should not be used as exterior doors. Mounting a deadbolt lock on a hollow core door compromises the security of these locks.



Bolt

A single cylinder deadbolt is activated with a key on the exterior side of the door and a thumb turn piece on the interior side. Install this lock where there is no breakable glass within 40-inches of the thumb turn piece. Otherwise a criminal could break the glass, reach inside and turn the thumb piece.



Single cylinder deadbolt

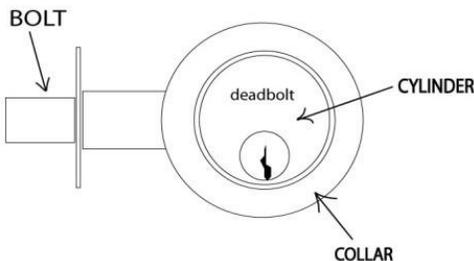
A double cylinder deadbolt is key activated on both sides on the door. It should be installed where there is glass within 40-inches of the lock. *Double cylinder deadbolt locks can hinder escape from a burning home so always leave a key in or near the lock when someone is home.* Double cylinder deadbolt locks are only permitted in existing single-family homes, town homes and first floor duplexes used exclusively as residential dwellings.



Double cylinder deadbolt

Both single and double cylinder deadbolt locks should meet these criteria to be a good security device:

- ✓ The **bolt** must extend a minimum of 1-inch and be made of case hardened steel.
- ✓ The **cylinder collar** must be tapered, round and free spinning to make it difficult to grip with a pliers or wrench. It must be solid metal – not hollow casting or stamped metal.



- ✓ The **connecting screws** that hold the lock together must be on the inside and made of case hardened steel. No exposed screw heads should be on the outside.
- ✓ The **connecting screws** must be at least one-fourth inch in diameter and go into solid metal stock, not screw posts.

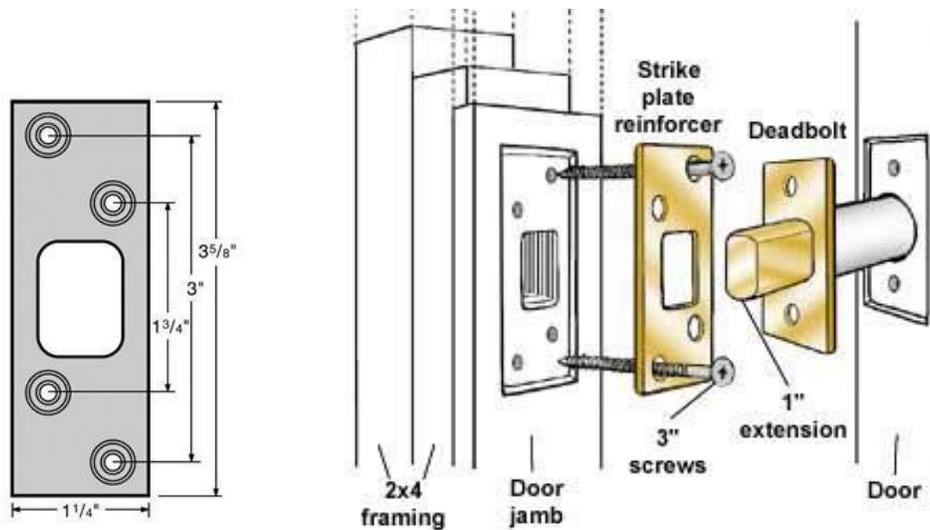


Connecting screw

A **strike plate** is the jamb fastening that receives the deadbolt in the locking position. A regular strike plate is typically installed in the door frame with two three-fourth inch screws. The door frame may split when the door is kicked or if pressure is applied near the strike plate using a tire iron, crow bar or similar object.



A **heavy duty strike plate** installed in place of a regular strike plate helps strengthen door frames. The heavy duty strike plate uses four to six, three-inch screws and not two, three-fourth inch screws that are typically used in regular strike plates. The longer screws go through the frame into the jamb making it harder for someone to split the frame when kicking the door or applying pressure with an object. A heavy duty strike plate will strengthen the door jamb plus reinforce the lock.



Touchpad deadbolt locks allow fast, easy keyless entry into your home all of the time and especially during bad weather or at night. Often these locks fit standard openings on new doors and can replace the existing hardware already mounted on doors.



In addition to lit keypads, touchpad deadbolt locks may include several other convenient features: Programming of six or more user codes; one time user codes for guests or other visitors; user codes that can be temporarily disabled; a lockout function that disables the lock for a brief period after 5 incorrect entries; and radio frequency remotes that can lock and unlock the door from up to 30 feet away. Emergency override keys are included with touchpad deadbolt locks.



Single cylinder deadbolt locks, double cylinder deadbolt locks, touchpad deadbolt locks and heavy duty strike plates are available for purchase at most home improvement and hardware retail stores. They can be installed with relative ease by most homeowners.

For more crime prevention tips and information contact:

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