

What is "lock snapping" ?

As the title would suggest, this is where the lock cylinder is literally snapped in two by applying force to the cylinder.

Thieves have devised methods of snapping these types of cylinders locks in a matter of seconds and still be able to operate the lock to open the door.

This threat can be considerably reduced simply by upgrading the cylinder to one that is specifically designed to prevent this method of attack. We recommend that all vulnerable doors using Euro-Profile cylinders be upgraded to incorporate 'Break Secure' cylinders.

Euro cylinders are mainly fitted to uPVC doors but some aluminium and wooden doors also use this type of lock.

How do I know if I have a vulnerable lock?



This is a photo of a fitted Euro cylinder style lock

You cannot tell from the outside if it 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.

Solution

Break secure, or anti-snap cylinders, are specifically designed to combat lock-snapping.

A cylinder has been designed that although it will snap, it 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.



This is a photo of a break secure cylinder - the cylinder is designed to break at the points shown leaving the centre locking mechanism still intact and working.

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 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.

The minimum recommendation for wooden doors is five-lever mortice locks which carry the British Standard BS3621.

If you have traditional nightlatch (commonly known as a Yale lock) fitted to your doors, **do not rely on this as the only method of security**. You should fit other locks, preferably deadlocks.

Other sites;

www.ourwatch.org.uk

www.abs-secure.co.uk