

Secured by Design

The best way to keep safe and secure in your own home is by designing security into your new home. The Secured by Design initiative includes many ways of making your home safe but also offers guidance on designing security into your new home, and lists architects and contractors who have all signed up to the scheme.

useful information

The following reports provide more information about your home's safety and security. They can be downloaded from the Traditional Housing Bureau Website:

- UK Housing and Climate Change
- Better Buildings – Better Lives
- Fire Safety Analysis in Concrete & Timber-Frame construction
- Cardington Fire Report
- Timber Frame Installation Creates Fire Risks
- Secured By Design for New Homes

Useful Links:

Flood line and damage limitation guide:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

The British Damage Management Association:
www.bdma.org.uk

An initiative from the police authority:
www.securedbydesign.com

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Safe and



Secure

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secure credentials

How Secure is your home?

For most of us our home is our castle and we expect it to be as secure. We naturally expect our homes to provide a safe and secure environment for our families with adequate protection against fire, flood and burglary. We install smoke detectors, burglar alarms, bolts, deadlocks and even motion sensors but how often do we think about the house itself.

How secure is the fabric of your home? When have you ever heard of a house being broken into cut into through a wall? Whilst there may be nothing that can prevent natural disasters occurring, the construction method of the home will affect how easily and efficiently the house can be restored or refurbished after an incident. In the case of burglary it will dictate how resistant the building can be to a break-in attempt, especially in apartments or communal living spaces.

How safe is your home in a flood?

With the increasing challenge associated with climate change we are getting hotter summers with more flash flooding due to the increase in intense storms. The robust nature of concrete and brick means that it does not rot or erode and makes clearing up after a flood very straightforward, as it is a simple drying out process rather than major reconstruction work.



How safe is your home in a fire?

Everyday in the UK 200 homes catch fire and as a result of one person dies and 40 people are injured. In the UK all new homes must meet with current fire regulations regardless of materials used; the minimum requirement being that the structure has to allow approximately 30 minutes to enable the safe exit of people. Far exceeding the minimum, a masonry house built with precast floors offers over 4 hours of protection to its inhabitants. A masonry home has many other advantages; for example it protects against the spread of fire between rooms or properties, it cannot catch fire, burn or drip molten particles. After the fire has been put out the masonry structure will, in most cases be sound and will only require minor remedial work and decoration whilst other types of homes may need to be completely rebuilt.

