

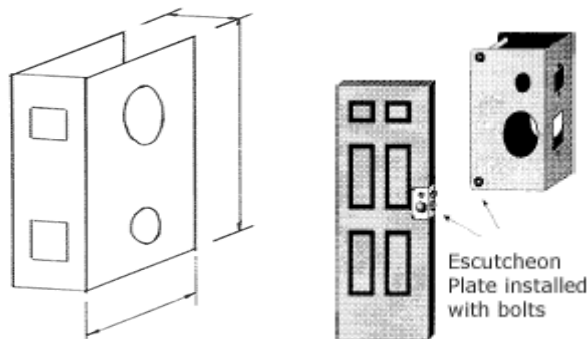


CRIME ALERT REGARDING APARTMENT BREAK-INS

The Winnipeg Police Service reports an increase in apartment break-ins by a specific method of entry known as “**ICE PICKING**”. Culprits attack wooden doors with deadbolt locks by drilling through the wood on an angle at the top of the lock. Once an access hole is made with a drill the culprits use a piece of coat hanger or other similar object to insert into the hole and cheat the latch causing the deadbolt to disengage.

A suspect, recently arrested in the City described this method of entry and indicated that it is growing in popularity with the local criminal element. Several apartments have been entered using this specific method. Owners, Property Managers, Landlords, and Caretakers are being alerted to be on the look out for this type of entry method and encouraged to take steps to improve locking hardware and door security where ever possible. All break-ins should be reported to the Police.

All exterior Apartment/Suite doors should have **ESCUTCHEON PLATES** (also know as box strikes or wrap plates) installed to improve security. Escutcheon Plates with back plates or wrap-around door channels can be installed to any deadbolt lock. Plates are to be secured from the inside with carriage or hex bolts that cannot be removed from the exterior. These plates wrap around the door and will help prevent culprits from drilling through the wooden doors. (See examples shown)



(Continued on Page 2)

There are basically two kinds of burglars, skilled professionals who often use tools as described with the ice picking method or opportunistic thieves who simply kick-in or force doors. The right lock hardware can deter the pro and defeat the opportunist. Culprits who force doors are often successful partly because of flimsy door locks and mounting hardware. But even poorly performing locks can be significantly strengthened by replacing the strike plate (the metal plate that's mounted on the door jamb and into which the lock's bolt slides) with a wrap around escutcheon plate. Adding a strong strike also improves the kick-in resistance of even the weakest locks.

Rental and Property Management Companies interested in upgrading the lock hardware on their units are encouraged to contact their local locksmiths for upgrade costs. A check with one local Locksmith company provided a price range of \$12.00 to \$30.00 for the purchase of various types of Escutcheon plates. For further information on Apartment Security please check out the Winnipeg Police Service web site at <http://www.winnipeg.ca/police> under the Crime Prevention section.

Compiled by: Constable C. Raven #1352/15-G1. Division #15 - Crime Stat Coordinator.