

REPLACEMENT EURO-LOCK CYLINDERS

The Problem

There is a worrying increase in the number of household burglaries where uPVC door locks have been forced to gain entry. Almost all uPVC doors (including French doors and Patio doors) are fitted with **Eurocylinder locks** as standard. There is an inherent weakness in older or cheaper versions where, by fracturing the outer lock cover at its weakest point, the cylinder can be simply snapped and removed with a wrench leaving the door insecure and directly open to the opportunist intruder. An intruder seeking to break open any door will in most cases use various tools and it is therefore essential to install high resistance locks.

The Solution

Several lock manufacturers now supply '**Break Secure (or Break-Safe) Euro-profile Lock Cylinders**' which they advertise as being the answer to the problem. However these are only marginally better and they too can be easily overcome, providing only a short delay to entry.

After a market survey and subjecting the replacement cylinders to NY Police assessment and testing, the recommended solution is to fit a **CISA ASTRAL S replacement cylinder**, part of the Ingersoll Rand range of premium quality security products. Fitting the new cylinder is quite straightforward for any capable DIY person. This lock meets the standard EN 1303.

The main features of the **ASTRAL S** are: the laminated steel core that provides snap resistance, the ten pin anti-pick biting system (compared to the usual six pins) which are also hardened to avoid drilling, a bump resistant device, all fitted as standard. The locks come with three keys as standard - extra keys can only be obtained by quoting your unique code number. They may be obtained by phoning Ingersoll Rand on 0191 430 2500.

There are 18 different sizes of cylinder with two finishes - satin nickel and satin bronze. The sizes differ because of the varying thickness of the uPVC doors and the location of the operating cam, which can be either central or off-set. To ensure that you obtain the correct cylinder, remove the single screw on the door edge (sometimes it's a recessed Allen screw), insert the usual key from the inside of the door and wiggle the cam into position so that the cylinder can be pushed or gently tapped out. It is then possible to take the measurements, or accurately trace round the cylinder showing the position of the screw hole, or even take the cylinder to the supplier to be matched to the replacement. To fit the new cylinder, reverse the above procedure ensuring the alignment of the cylinder screw hole with the hole on the door edge and secure with the longer screw provided.

The cost to buy a replacement lock should be about £31 inc. VAT. They may be available from local DIY stores, or can be bought online from, say, <http://toughlocks.co.uk/contact.htm>

Or you may choose to contact a local locksmith to supply and fix the replacement lock for you.

Remember: to prevent crime is everyone's responsibility