

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 10-4
WINDOW SECURITY BARS**

Original Issue 8-05-91

Last Revision 5-2-06

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ISSUE:

Security bars installed on sleeping room escape windows.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

EVERY SLEEPING ROOM IS REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ESCAPE WINDOW (REFER TO MFD POLICY #10-1 FOR DETAILS). EACH STORY OF A BUILDING IS TO HAVE NOT LESS THAN 20 SQUARE FEET OF OPENINGS IN EVERY 50 LINEAL FEET OF EXTERIOR WALL ON AT LEAST ONE (1) SIDE OF THE BUILDING FOR FIREFIGHTER ACCESS AND VENTILATION.

EXCEPTION: BUILDINGS THAT ARE PROTECTED BY AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.

PROBLEM:

Many types of security bars and other methods of securing windows render those windows inoperable for occupant escape purposes or for use by firefighters. Recognizing that there is a need to secure windows on the lower levels of buildings, this policy identifies types of security bars that meet both security concerns and fire safety requirements.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE:

- 1) Security bars may be added to escape windows provided that they meet the following criteria:
 - a) The security grate may either swing in or out of the window.
 - b) The hinges are to be on the right side of the grate, when facing the building from the outside.
 - c) The release mechanism is to be on the left side, when facing the building and is to be activated by a foot release paddle.
 - d) Refer to drawings on the following pages for details.
- 2) Security bars may be installed on openings other than escape windows provided that exterior firefighter access is maintained (20 sq. ft. of openings in each 50 lineal feet of exterior wall).

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MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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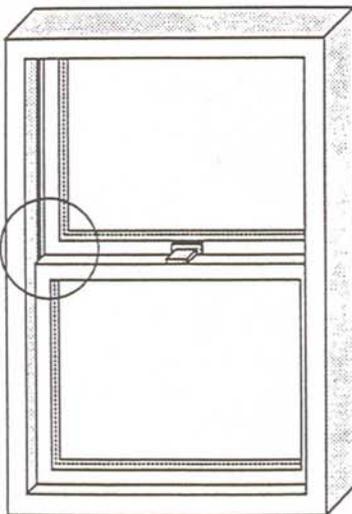
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*"Community and Police
Working Together"*

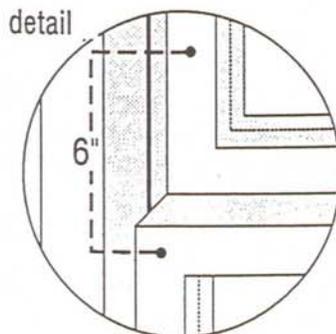
WINDOW PINS

Materials Needed

- Two 16-penny nails per window
- 5/32" drill bit
- Drill (electric, if possible)
- Tape measure or ruler



DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOW



Directions

1. Close the window and find the place where the sashes overlap.
2. Drill a hole through the inside sash and three-quarters of the way through the outside sash at a slightly downward angle on the left or right side of the window. (See Figure A.)
3. Insert a 16-penny nail from the inside to pin the sashes together. (See Figure B.)
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 on the other side of the window.
5. If you would like to be able to open your windows for ventilation yet keep them secure:
 - 5a. Open window six inches.
 - 5b. Using the original holes on the inside sash, drill a second set of holes three-quarters of the way through the outside sash at the same downward angle.
 - 5c. Insert 16-penny nails from the inside to pin the sashes together with window open.



figure A

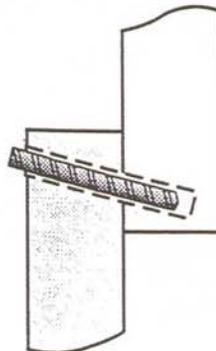


figure B



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APPROVED - FIRE RELEASE

