

# HOME FRONT

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## ARE YOU SECURE?

Good question, are you secure, if you are not secure you could spend a lot of money making your home secure and find you are still insecure. I can help you make your home secure if that's what you need.

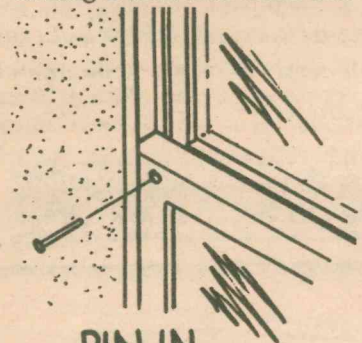
Usually I start by requesting that any bushes or plants which could hide a person as he works on a window or door to gain illegal entry be cut back or removed. Clean it up so your neighbors can see your house. Light it up also, allow dark entries to be seen from the street.

If you don't lock up every time you leave the house, you may as well not do any of the things I've listed here because that is your only real protection. An expensive double dead bolt with heat treated bolts, free rolling pin, solid brass body & tapered free spinning trim, if not locked, is as useless as a canoe in Phoenix.

Check all the doors & windows, are the locks working? Determine if the locks are substantial enough to withstand a reasonable force. If there is a question just replace it or augment with a new one.

I recall a conversation with a Navy security specialist in which he claimed one could make no place totally secure. About all we can do is make it so difficult to enter that it's not worth the trouble. Figure out what it is you are protecting. I have an old color TV and an adequate stereo system, my silverware is stainless and my clothes won't fit anyone, so I need \$4,000 iron gates & window bars & alarms to keep someone from making off with \$200 worth of stuff?

With some hand tools and a few dollars worth of gadgets, you can lock up a house so tight that someone will have to kick in a door or break a window to gain entry. A window with an expensive lock will break as easily as a window with a cheap lock. Double hung or sliders can be easily secured by drilling a hole into them and sliding a

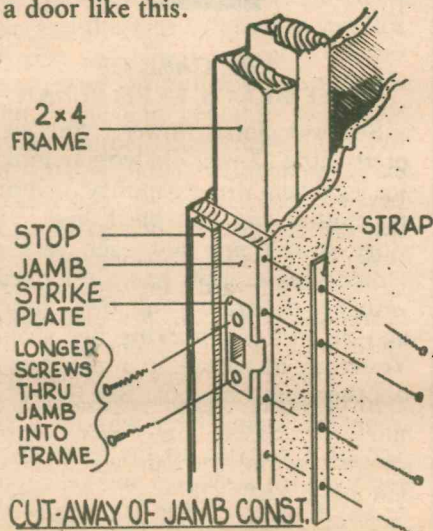


## PIN IN DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS

pin into the hole, (not through because one could push the pin through from the outside). Casement windows can be locked with a screen door hook. The crank mechanism is easily replaced if it shows sign of wear. Louvered windows are not vandal proof no matter what you do short of iron bars, so if you have them, I suggest that they be replaced.

Some doors can be kicked in without much trouble, even if they have several locks. Check your exterior doors, if they are rickety or coming apart you should replace them with a solid core

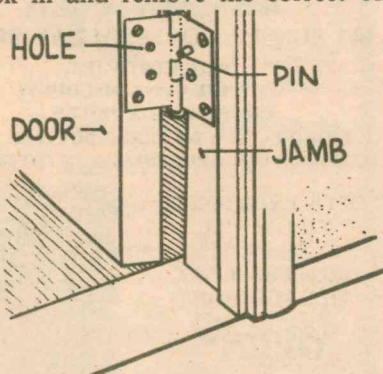
type 1 3/4" thick. Even the first string center for the Pittsburgh Steelers would have trouble breaking this type of door. The next weak link in the security chain is the jamb or frame around the door. Most builders install a finish jamb only 3/4" thick because thicker material is more costly. The problem comes when holes are drilled and cut into this jamb to allow for the strike plate and other closing hardware. When screws are added the wood is severely weakened (sometimes even split). If the door swings inward, all that holds the door closed is equivalent to a 1" x 1" piece of wood. In other words it is not much of a challenge to break. Even my grandma could kick in a door like this.



There are several ways to strengthen the jamb. Behind the 1" x 6" finish jamb there should be a 2" x 4" framing member inside the wall. The easiest way to create some resistance to someone pushing in on your door is to replace the screws that hold the strike plate with screws the same diameter as original but long enough to screw into the framing member. Another way to secure your door is more costly but worth the extra bucks, especially if your neighbor has the stuff you need.

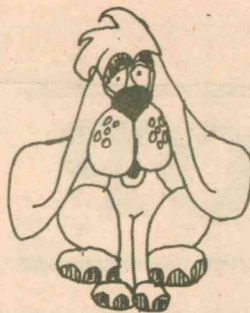
Run over to your neighbor's and get a small drill motor, a 1/8" bit, about 4 screws (#6 or 8 round head, 2" long) and a piece of metal strap and drill edgeways into the finish jamb; above and below the strike plate, screw strap onto the jamb. Even if you didn't get the metal strap, the screws edgeway in the jamb will reinforce the wood. This will work only if the door swings inward.

If the door swings out, bring all that stuff back and trade it for two 16 penny nails. Remove two screws on each side of top and bottom hinges. Check the sketch below and put one screw back in and remove the correct one.



See Page 10

Everyone has a neighbor who has everything.



# PET NEWS

## Fleas? Funny You Should Ask By Ronald D. Schechter, DVM

### THE CURE

Provided to the O. Beacon courtesy of Eldon Prock, DVM. This is the third and final article in this series on fleas.

In mild to moderate cases of flea infestation, periodic applications of flea powders, sprays and shampoos may be effective. Usually it is best not to apply these products more than once a week. Although flea collars never seem to be as effective as the advertisements would have us believe, in some cases of light infestation or when simple prevention is being sought, the newer, stronger flea and tick collars can be helpful. It should be stressed, however, that in areas with a heavy flea population, such as coastal San Diego, especially during the warmer months, collars are often too slow acting to stay ahead of the rapidly reproducing fleas, and are consequently ineffective. In dogs and cats with flea bite allergy they are usually useless, since they allow the fleas too much time to bite before being killed.

In moderate to heavy flea infestation and in case of allergy, very frequent treatment with baths, sprays and powders may be required. In these cases, the use of a so-called flea dip may provide superior results, especially those dips that are allowed to dry on the animal without being rinsed off. Certain dips are very toxic to cats and must never be used in this species, while others are usually safe if the proper dilution as recommended by the manufacturer, is used. In addition, cats should not be allowed to lick themselves excessively after they are dipped, at least until they are fairly dry. In sensitive cats, partial towel drying is safest.

Fleas shampoos can be very useful for cleaning the flea dirt and other debris out of coat; however, once rinsed off they provide very little residual flea protection and must be used repeatedly in the face of a heavy infestation. After frequent baths the coat may become harsh and dry. Applying a good coat conditioner periodically can restore much of the lost luster as well as protect the damaged skin. In addition, oral supplements containing essential fatty acids can aid in restoring a poor coat.

In addition to topical applications of various insecticides and flea repellants, the oral administration of certain new insecticide preparations has been used in the dog and appears to be well tolerated in most cases. Side effects, however, can occur occasionally, just as they do with powders, sprays, shampoos and dips. This approach to flea control could be worth exploring in many cases.

Where flea infestation is particularly heavy it is very helpful and sometimes absolutely necessary to deflea the premises. Foggers work well in enclosed areas such as the house or garage

and special sprays and powders are available for outside areas, such as the yard or kennel.

Professional exterminators are another alternative. In either case I strongly recommend repeating the entire defleaing procedure in approximately 21-28 days in the winter and 14-21 days in summer in order to destroy the newly hatched fleas before they can lay eggs. To this end and also to prevent the introduction of new fleas into the environment, the family pets must also be treated simultaneously, preferably with a good shampoo followed by a flea dip.

Feeding Brewer's yeast has been claimed to repel fleas. Although this remains to be scientifically proven, adding this product to your pet's diet should not be harmful at recommended doses (30 grains/day cat and small dogs; 60 grains/day medium to large dogs) and it might help. The active ingredient in Brewer's yeast is probably B vitamins and B complex and can be given at following doses: 50 mg. a day for small dogs and cats; 100 mg. for medium and 200 mg. for large dogs. Other products that have been advertised as being effective flea repellants are pennyroyal and eucalyptus oils and leaves, which are applied to the coat. All of the above products may, in fact, work at times but is a common experience for many veterinarians, including myself, to treat animals in which these products have simply not been effective. Their use should be explored and studied, as they could prove quite helpful in cases where insecticides are not tolerated.

Mechanical removal of fleas can also be satisfactorily accomplished using a very fine toothed Flea Comb. This is especially useful in very young or sick animals that may not tolerate insecticides.

If you live in San Diego, especially in or around one of the beach communities, your pet should be examined carefully and frequently for fleas or flea dirt. It is probably an excellent idea to apply flea powder, spray or dip every week or so to any dog or cat in this area as a preventive, even if no fleas are found. It is much easier to prevent a heavy flea infestation than to treat one, whether it be in the home or on your pet.

The oral medicine mentioned above is now available at your veterinarian, in liquid and tablet form, for dogs only, PROBAN (cythioate), appears to be working well in most cases.

The company's brochure indicates that ten times the dose has to be administered before the animal shows any symptom of toxicity, therefore most vets feel this product to be safe. P. Eldon Prock DVM  
Sunset Cliffs Animal Clinic