

Child Safety Devices

Many developments in window security and safety have been driven by incidents of children falling out of upper floor windows. Here are a few tips as to how to keep small children safe.

a) Handles

Ensure a press to release window handle is fitted – these are difficult for small children to operate and can be deadlocked if need be. Most modern window handles have this feature – if yours don't then the Easyfit Repair Espag Handle or the Easyfit Repair Cockspur are simple to fit upgrades that are press to release and lockable. All you need is a screwdriver.

b) Additional Restrictor Devices

These devices allow the window to open to a fixed distance, normally 100mm, before a safety catch engages. They are generally very difficult for a small child to operate. Winlock offers both the patented Boa Restrictor for optimal performance or the Autolatch restrictor for a more basic function. Both types of restrictor should be fitted by a skilled tradesman, this is not something a DIYer should fit. On the other hand a skilled man can fit these devices quickly and easily.

c) Concealed Restrictor Devices

These devices are built into the friction hinges and are virtually impossible for small children to operate, but have the disadvantage that they can be difficult for even adults to override. If there is no requirement to open the window beyond a limited opening (100mm or so) for ventilation then we would recommend fitting a patented Boa Concealed Restrictor to the friction hinges. These devices are tamper proof and cannot be removed without tools. However, they can easily be retrofitted to existing window hinges and can be removed at a later date if restriction is no longer required. They have the added feature of considerably enhancing the security of the window as the opening is permanently limited. Again these devices should always be professionally fitted.

d) Fire Safety

If a window might be used as an exit point in the event of fire then never fit a permanent or concealed restrictor device as they will delay or even prevent egress. In this case a visible restrictor device should be used so an adult or older child could easily operate in case of emergency.