

## Window Fire Safety

In many cases fire safety and security come into conflict where window hardware is concerned, here are a few tips that are mainly geared towards ease of exit in case of fire but still maintaining a strong element of security.

### SIZE OF OPENING

A window may be big enough to use as a possible escape route in case of fire but only if the hardware allows the window to open wide enough. If the current window hardware doesn't allow the window to open wide enough then it may be possible to fit special egress friction hinges which will maximise the possible opening. Winlock can supply Imperial Egress friction Hinges in various sizes which can also be fitted with Imperial Hinge Protectors to prevent the hinges being forced open from the outside and thus maintaining security. All these devices should only be fitted by an expert.

Another way to improve the window opening is to replace an outward opening window with a new inward opening tilt/turn window. This is expensive but maximises the available opening size for egress. If buying a new tilt/turn window make sure it is fitted with security hardware that complies with PAS024. Ask for a copy of an independent test certificate.

### HANDLES

The handle fitted to a window that may be used as a fire escape route should be non-lockable but with a press to release function. This combination of features maintains the child safety feature of having to press the button to turn the handle but avoids the risk of the handle being left in the locked mode. Lockable window handles should **never** be fitted to a fire escape window, otherwise your last moments on earth might be spent searching for the key. Winlock offers a wide range on non-lockable press to release window handles for both inward and outward opening windows.

Call our Technical Department for further advice 01952 602250

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