

# WINDOW CRACKING

## HOW TO SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY CRACK WINDOWS

### A HANDY GUIDE FROM **BURNING PINK**

#### **TOP TIPS**

Use a good quality, car, bus, or train escape hammer (see examples 1 & 2 below).

Avoid spring-loaded car escape tools. These can be temperamental.

Hit near any corner of the glass.

You don't need to hit very hard.

**ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GLASSES.**

**WEAR KEVLAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES.**

**ONLY EVER BREAK A PANE OF GLASS WHEN YOU ARE CERTAIN THAT IT CANNOT INJURE ANYONE.**

**NEVER BREAK A PANE OF GLASS POSITIONED MOSTLY OR ENTIRELY ABOVE YOUR OWN OR ANY OTHER PERSON'S HEAD HEIGHT.** Falling glass can be razor sharp and/or heavy which risks causing serious injury, especially when high enough to accelerate during free fall.

**IMMEDIATELY STAND BACK TO AVOID ANY FALLING GLASS.**

Regular plate glass common on older buildings is very weak and can be cracked using ordinary tools such as a claw hammer. Heat-treated glass can also sometimes be cracked in the same way but requires more force. Both types of glass break up into razor sharp shards and are therefore very dangerous.

Many public and commercial buildings use 6mm thick toughened safety glass. When cracked, the entire pane of glass shatters into granular chunks, not sharp shards, and most of it falls out of the frame. This type of glass is very expensive to replace.

Higher security buildings often use laminated glass. Cracks typically branch out across the whole pane of glass when struck although it depends on the specification. The glass will always stay standing and cannot shatter. This type of glass is also very expensive to replace.

**EXAMPLE 1:**  
**CAR ESCAPE**  
**HAMMER**



**EXAMPLE 2:**  
**BUS/TRAIN**  
**ESCAPE**  
**HAMMER**



Lifehammer brand car escape hammer with hardened steel hammerhead. Effective on most types of glass including 6mm thick safety glass. Similar models can be found at major high-street retailers of car parts and accessories.

Lifeaxe brand heavy-duty bus/train escape hammer with hardened steel hammerhead. Effective on most types of glass and is specifically designed for toughened glass up to 6mm thick. The weighted hammerhead also gives extra clout. Available from online safety equipment suppliers.