

CURRENT INSURERS' DAMAGE STATISTICS REPORTS 85,000 BREAK-INS - HUECK WINDOWS CAN COST-EFFECTIVELY BE RETROFITTED TO A HIGHER RESISTANCE CLASS WITH GEN 4.0

The Association of the German Insurance Industry (GDV) reported a nationwide number of 85,000 break-ins with a total damage amount of 230 million euros in its recently published damage statistics 2020¹. According to GDV, break-ins are usually carried out through easily accessible, unsecured windows, as well as apartment or balcony doors. "We therefore recommend effectively increasing the level of protection with burglar-resistant windows and doors," says Thomas Leimkühler, Head of System Management at the German aluminium system house Hueck.

Worthwhile investment in burglar security

According to GDV General Manager Jörg Asmussen, the number of break-ins decreased overall, especially in the first Covid year 2020. One of the reasons for this is that because of the pandemic, many people are at home, so burglars have fewer opportunities to break in. Asmussen continues: "We have also seen for years that many home and building owners are investing in better security technology. It pays off."

Conventional window constructions often do not offer any real protection against burglars, since standard windows and doors can usually be levered open with simple tools, Leimkühler knows. That is why the Hueck Lambda WS / DS 075 and 090 window and door series as well as the Hueck front door systems are tested and certified up to resistance class RC3. Leimkühler explains: "By using the Hueck GEN 4.0 window fittings, basic windows can be upgraded to resistance class RC2. With additional accessories, an expansion to resistance class RC3 is uncomplicated, quick and economical. This offers temporal and economic advantages for processors and owners alike."

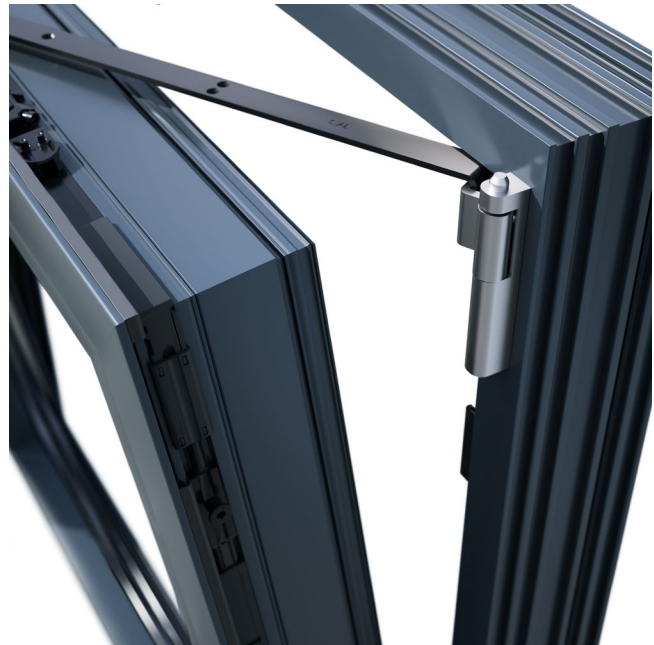


Figure 1: Hueck GEN 4.0 window fittings for uncomplicated retrofitting of burglar resistance (source: Hueck)

Burglary protection in new buildings

"Burglar-resistant windows and doors in new buildings are not yet mandatory in Germany, but we advise, in accordance with police recommendations, to choose at least security class RC2, which can ward off a

¹ GDV Gesamtverband der Deutschen Versicherungswirtschaft e.V. (01. 04 2021). Einbruchbilanz 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.gdv.de/de/medien/aktuell/zahl-der-wohnungseinbrueche-sinkt-corona-bedingt-auf-historisches-tief--67062>

break-in with a simple tool for at least three minutes - better still, RC3, in which the elements withstand for at least five minutes despite the use of a crowbar. In addition, the installation of windows and doors of the resistance class RC2 is even subsidized by the German federal government through the KfW Bank, "explains Leimkühler. The burglar-resistant windows and doors from Hueck are also not only tested and approved in Germany, but in most European countries according to DIN EN 1627-1630.

Retrofit burglar resistance in existing buildings

Whether in the case of a change in the use of a building or an increase in building security without usage change - according to the Hueck experts, a subsequent increase in burglar-resistant measures is easy and inexpensive to implement. "As the only window system on the market, the Hueck Lambda windows can be upgraded to RC2 or RC3 at low cost and with little effort. In order to use our burglar-resistant GEN 4.0 window fittings, which have been tested in accordance with DIN 18104-1, the windows do not even have to be removed," explains Leimkühler. Hueck offers the lockable window handles necessary for all resistance classes in their own attractive handle design.



Figure 2: Successful break-ins can be prevented by installing or retrofitting burglar-resistant windows and doors. (source: Hueck)

Burglar resistance as a component in the balanced portfolio

The ability to retrofit burglar-resistant properties is a great advantage for building owners and metal construction companies alike. Leimkühler further explains: "In addition, it meets the modern demands on urban living and working spaces, as well as the sustainability and long service life of buildings." At Hueck, the commitment to a safe and comfortable life in urban areas is already anchored in the Hueck World Life Balance corporate philosophy. In addition, they are working with digital and sustainable solutions on the longevity and future viability of the system solutions, whereby burglar resistance also plays a role. "In addition to a resource-saving management, the focus is on the certified sustainability of the product series. The majority of our system solution is EPD certified. In addition, our HUECK Lambda WS/DS 075 construction kit was certified with Cradle to Cradle bronze, as well as our Hueck Trigon FS construction kit with Cradle to Cradle silver," explains Leimkühler.

A video explanation of the burglar-resistant GEN 4.0 fittings from Hueck: <https://youtu.be/-XaPLwPdggg>