

Inspector Secrets - How to Stop the 6 Second Break In.



It should come as no big surprise that criminals have come up with yet another ingenious way to break into our homes. Too bad they couldn't use all that energy on something useful! Anyway, if you have an automatic garage door opener, listen up!

If you look at your garage door opener there should be an emergency release cord hanging down. This is connected to a short lever, or pin, which disconnects the door from the opener track when you pull on the cord. The purpose is to allow you a way to disconnect the door and open it in case of a power outage.



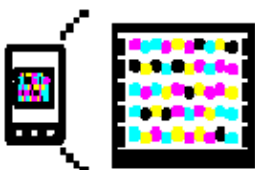
With that in mind, breaking in from the outside is quite easy. The thief first shoves a block of wood like a 2 x 4 between the upper garage door panel and the door frame. This will hold the top of the door open a few inches. Second, they will use a coat hanger to reach through, grab the release cord and pull. That's 6 seconds and the door is now easily and quietly opened by hand.

To Stop a Thief:

The fix is simple. Just secure the emergency disconnect so it cannot be pulled open. Often a plastic zip tie is all it takes. If the power goes out and you need to open the door, just cut the tie with wire cutters.

Want to know more? Have other inspection questions? Contact us at 360.459.1632 or cameohomeinspection@comcast.net

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