

Security rises to the top of the list the moment you stand on a cold January evening, hear a strange noise near the side door, and realize your back entrance is out of sight from the street. In London, Ontario, where many homes mix older brick veneers with newer additions and basement walkouts, the right windows and doors can make the difference between an easy target and a dead end for would-be intruders. Good security does not have to look like a fortress. It starts with smart choices in materials, glazing, hardware, and proper window installation London Ontario professionals can stand behind.

What actually deters a break-in

Every installer with a few decades under a tool belt has seen the same pattern. Intruders look for speed, quiet, and cover. They prefer a rear patio door with a wobbly latch, or an old slider whose sash lifts out because the installer never set anti-lift blocks. If that fails, they try a ground floor window concealed by hedges, especially if the glass is single pane or the sash looks brittle. Noise is the enemy for them. Anything that takes longer than a minute or two, or risks a loud crack, often sends them looking elsewhere.

This is why certain design decisions matter more than others. The stiffness of the frame. The number of locking points. The way glass is laminated. The length of screws anchoring a strike plate. And just as important, the quality of the installation. A Grade 1 deadbolt won't help if the latch sits in punky wood, and a heavy steel door loses much of its value if the hinges bite only into trim.

When homeowners ask about window replacement London Ontario companies recommend for security, I tell them to think like a carpenter and a locksmith. Force travels through the weakest element first. Make that element as strong as the rest of the assembly, and most attempts end quickly.

Door systems that push back

Many London homes have two high-risk door types: a rear sliding patio door and an older steel or wood entry with sidelites. Both benefit from modern upgrades.

On hinged entry doors, insulated steel or high-quality fiberglass skins over a composite or wood frame perform well. The skin gauge, the density of the core, and the stile construction matter. Doors with laminated veneer lumber stiles resist twisting and hold screws better than hollow honeycomb cores. Pair the slab with a composite jamb that resists rot at the sill, add a continuous threshold that ties tightly into the subfloor, and you have a robust base.

Hardware is your next line of defense. Multipoint locksets that engage at the latch, mid-rail, and near the top edge spread force along the door's height, which makes prying far harder. If you still prefer a traditional handle and deadbolt, choose an ANSI/BHMA Grade 1 deadbolt with a reinforced strike plate anchored by 3 inch screws driven into the wall stud, not just the jamb. I have replaced countless short screws in older strikes, and the difference is immediate. A long screw buried in solid framing resists a full body shoulder hit. Hinge side security matters too. Removable pin hinges should include security studs or tabs so the door cannot be lifted off if someone knocks out the pins.

Glazing around doors, especially sidelites and transoms, is a favorite target. The fix is not to eliminate glass but to use the right kind. Laminated safety glass with an interlayer, commonly PVB, stays in the opening even after shattering. It looks like ordinary glass, but it resists a quick hole and the silent reach-in that lets someone flip a thumb turn. For households worried about someone smashing, reaching, then unlocking, swap an interior thumb turn for a double cylinder deadbolt where code permits, or move to a multipoint system with a key-control

option. Always check local fire code and occupancy rules before installing any hardware that requires a key to exit.

Sliding patio doors deserve special attention. Look for a mortise lock with a hook that bites into a pocket, not a simple latch that can be jiggled. Add anti-lift blocks at the head so the panel cannot be lifted off the track from outside. A secondary foot bolt or security bar provides visible and mechanical reinforcement. Sliders live hard lives outdoors in our freeze-thaw cycles, so stainless fasteners, quality tandem rollers, and rigid frames keep the interlock tight over time.

Tilt-and-turn terrace doors have become more common in some London neighborhoods. Properly built, they are inherently secure because the tilting function engages multiple cams around the sash. The key is proper reinforcement inside the sash and frame, and careful adjustment at installation so the cams bite fully.

Smart locks are popular, but they are a supplement, not a substitute. I advise clients to look for models with clear ANSI grading on the mechanical core, auto-lock that can be set to a sensible delay, and encrypted communication if using Wi-Fi or Z-Wave. Above all, make sure the door closes square and stays latched. A misaligned strike defeats the best electronics.

Window choices that pull their weight

Casement windows shine in the security category when compared to old double hungs and basic sliders. A good casement pulls the sash tight into the frame using multipoint locks along the vertical stile. The more contact points, the harder it is to pry. The operator gearbox, arms, and keepers should be metal, not plastic. I have replaced cracked plastic keepers on bargain casements that failed after two winters. Once upgraded to a steel keeper and a better lock, the prying stopped.

Awning windows share similar mechanics and are less accessible for reach-ins when cracked open for ventilation. Sliders and single/double hungs are not a lost cause, but they need attention. Look for heavier extrusions, metal reinforcement in the meeting rails, and positive locks that bite into metal keepers. On any slider, anti-lift blocks and track wedges cut down on rattling and lifting. Retrofit vent stops that limit how far a sash can open are helpful for airflow without compromising security, but remember bedroom egress requirements.

Glass again plays a central role. On ground floor and basement windows near grade or egress wells, laminated glass raises the bar. An intruder can still crack it, but the interlayer keeps glass in place and frustrates a fast entry. Tempered glass, by contrast, is strong against blunt impact and heat but breaks into small pebbles. It is a safety requirement in certain locations like near doors, in bathrooms, or close to floors, but it does not resist entry as long as laminated does. In sensitive locations, a dual-pane unit that uses laminated glass for the interior or exterior lite combines safety and security with energy performance.

Grilles between glass, internal blinds, and decorative textures do not add real security, but privacy glass near side entries can keep tempting views of packages and electronics out of sight. Pair privacy with motion lighting and a properly trimmed hedge line, and you remove both desire and cover.

Frame materials and reinforcement

You will find three main families in London Ontario windows: uPVC vinyl, aluminum clad wood, and fiberglass or composite frames. Each can be secure if built and installed correctly.

Vinyl has improved dramatically. Multi-chamber profiles with corner welds create a stiff frame, and many lines add steel or fiberglass reinforcement in the meeting rails or lock zones. Cheap vinyl flexes, which loosens locks

and shortens the lifespan of weather seals. I encourage clients considering window replacement London to handle a sample sash. If you can twist it by hand, skip it.

Aluminum clad wood gives a traditional interior with durable exterior skins. The security issue is how well the sash corners are joined and whether the wood core is treated against moisture. Swollen wood moves hardware out of alignment. When these are tuned and sealed properly, they feel solid and operate smoothly for decades.

Fiberglass and composite frames have excellent strength to weight ratios and small thermal expansion. That means hardware keeps alignment through hot summers and freezing winters, which is a quiet form of security. Locks that always throw cleanly are locks you remember to use.

Hardware quality cannot be an afterthought. Stainless screws, metal keepers, and European-style cams that pull tight when you crank the handle all contribute to a sash that resists prying. For tilt-and-turns, look for continuous perimeter hardware with mushrooms or roller cams. For casements, examine the operator arms and corner reinforcement plates. These small components separate showroom polish from real-world durability.



Installation details that make or break security

I have pulled out beautiful new windows that failed because the installation was sloppy. A sturdy frame floating in foam without anchor screws into the studs will flex and move. Security begins with anchoring. Fasteners should penetrate solid framing or masonry, not just brickmould. In retrofits common to window installation London Ontario projects, we often deal with older wood frames inside brick openings. You can do an insert replacement if the original frame is sound, square, and rot free. If the wood is soft or out of square, a full frame replacement restores structural connection and improves security because the new unit ties directly into framing.

Shim placement matters. Use pairs of shims at the jambs and sill to distribute load and keep the frame square, then lock the frame with appropriate anchors through the jambs or fins. Spray foam is not structure. It insulates and air seals, but the backer rod and sealant joint to the exterior cladding and interior trim should be continuous, flexible, and weather resistant. On doors, through-jamb screws behind weatherstripping tie the jamb to studs, and the threshold needs full, solid support so it does not deflect under weight.

In London's climate, installers also have to plan for seasonal expansion and contraction. A too-tight installation binds in summer and leaves gaps in winter. Both outcomes hurt security because the locks misalign, and you [patio door replacement London](#) end up slamming or leaving windows cracked. A careful installer sets reveals evenly, checks lock throw, and returns after the first season if needed for a tune-up.

Codes, ratings, and what they really mean for you

Ontario's building code requires safety glazing in specific hazardous locations and sets egress rules for bedrooms and basements. That affects hardware choices. In many bedrooms, a double cylinder deadbolt on a balcony door is not permitted because it can impede escape. Instead, you can use laminated glass to resist breakage and a single cylinder deadbolt paired with a reinforced strike.

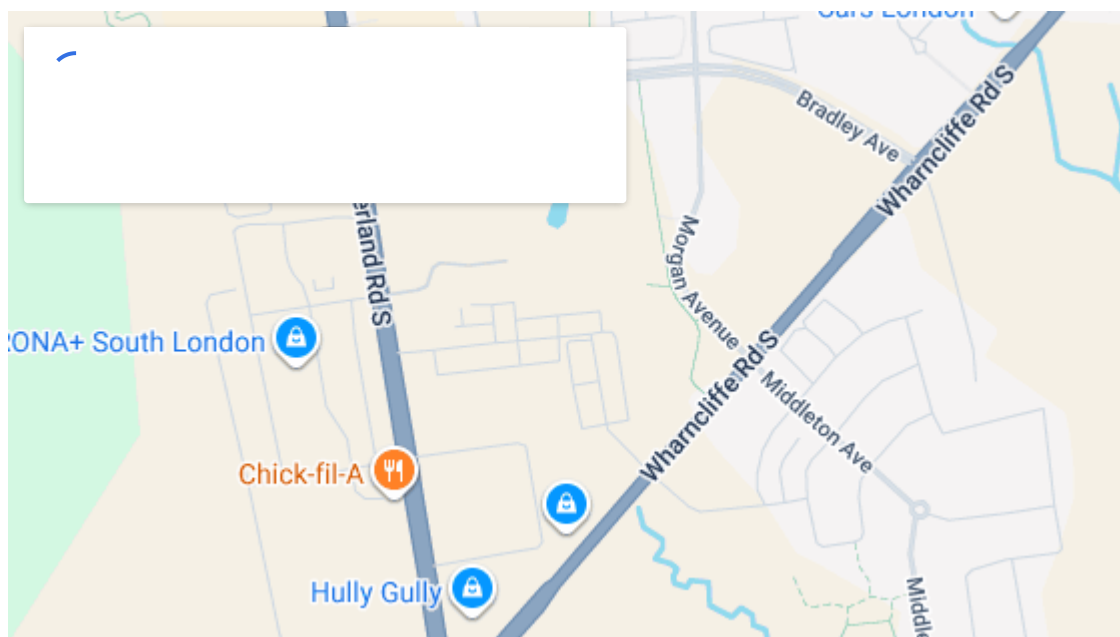
Most quality windows sold for window replacement London Ontario projects are tested to NAFS standards and labeled with Performance Grades for structural, air, and water. A higher Performance Grade suggests a stiffer unit that holds its shape in wind and under stress, which correlates with better lock alignment and, by extension, better day-to-day security. It is not a burglary rating, but it is a useful proxy for build quality. Energy Star

certification speaks to insulating performance, not strength, but the better lines that hit strong energy numbers often use higher quality spacers, seals, and frames that also contribute to stability.

There is no widespread residential impact resistance requirement here like in hurricane zones. If you want impact-rated units, you can source laminated IGUs designed for that purpose, but be ready for higher cost and lead times. For most London homes, laminated glass on ground floors, solid frames, and multi-point locks provide excellent practical security without going to full impact specifications.

Integrating with alarms and smart sensors

Many homeowners ask about pairing new windows and doors with security systems. Factory-installed contacts embedded in the frame look clean and last longer than surface-mount magnets. If you plan hardwired sensors, tell your installer during the quoting stage so they can route wires through jambs and sills without compromising drainage paths. Wireless contact sensors are simpler to add later, but they are bulkier.



Glass break sensors complement laminated glass, not replace it. Laminated glass can still crack under force, and the noise will often trigger a properly placed acoustic sensor, while the interlayer buys time by keeping the pane intact. If you go with smart locks, verify compatibility with your alarm hub so the system can arm and disarm reliably. Keep an eye on battery health, and do not neglect the plain mechanical key backup.

Real-world examples from London neighborhoods

In Old North and Woodfield, many houses have original wood windows with storm inserts. They are charming, but the meeting rails are soft after decades, and latches barely hold. One homeowner I worked with wanted to preserve the look while boosting security. We installed aluminum clad wood casements with simulated divided lites matching the historic grid. Inside, multipoint locks and laminated lower lites ended the drafts and removed the weak points without changing the facade.

In Westmount, a series of rear patio door entries led several families to call around for window replacement London options. The common trait was aftermarket stick-on security film over standard tempered glass and a worn latch. We replaced those with heavy vinyl sliders using mortise hook locks, anti-lift blocks, and laminated exterior lites. The visible security bar was icing on the cake. Months later, a neighbor's camera captured someone trying the handle, then moving on after the door did not rattle or budge.

Basement egress in newer subdivisions around Hyde Park poses a different challenge. Windows must meet egress size and opening requirements. We specified larger casement units with egress hinges that allow the sash to open wider. To maintain security, we used laminated glass and deep wells with clear lids, which also deter casual tampering.

Choosing glass for security and comfort

Security glass choices pair well with energy goals. A typical dual-pane unit with low-E coatings and argon gas gets you into a comfortable U-factor range. Swapping one lite to laminated with a PVB interlayer adds a modest amount of weight and cost, often in the 10 to 20 percent premium range on that unit, but pays off with acoustic dampening and entry resistance. For doors with large glass areas, consider laminated for at least the bottom half. Decorative laminated options can also meet safety requirements while hiding sightlines into mudrooms and kitchens.

If you worry about scratches on exterior laminated lites, place the laminated lite on the interior side of the IGU and the tempered lite outside. That layout still resists entry because the inner lite stays intact even if the outer pane breaks. Always ask your supplier how their IGUs manage the interlayer in cold, since some combinations perform better in our winters.

Maintenance that sustains security

Well-chosen systems still need small habits. Lubricate lock bolts, latches, and casement operators annually with a dry silicone or a manufacturer-approved product. Wipe dirt from tracks so rollers glide and interlocks engage fully. Check strike plates and hinges each spring after the house moves a little with temperature swings. Tighten loose screws and, if they spin, upsize to a longer or thicker fastener that bites into real wood.

Look at caulking around frames and sills. Voids and cracks let water in, which swells wood and shifts alignment. Exterior sealant has a lifespan. When it fails, reseal with a high-quality, exterior-rated product that adheres to both the frame material and your cladding.

Seasonal patterns matter. Doors exposed to direct sun expand. If a latch sticks on hot afternoons, your installer can adjust the strike or plane the slab slightly to relieve pressure. Fix the small irritations early, or someone in the household will stop locking because it feels finicky.

A practical pre-purchase checklist

- Ask whether the door or window uses multipoint locking and metal keepers in primary stress points.
- Specify laminated glass for ground floor and accessible basement locations, even if tempered is permitted.
- Confirm reinforcement in sash and frame where locks mount, and handle a sample to feel rigidity.
- Review the anchoring plan for your opening type, especially in brick veneer retrofits common in London.
- Get hardware grades in writing, including deadbolt ANSI rating and strike plate screw length.

Vetting window installation London Ontario professionals

- Request job photos of similar homes in your neighborhood with references you can call.
- Ask how they will handle alarms or smart sensors and who is responsible for reconnecting them.
- Clarify if service calls within the first year are included for seasonal lock or hinge adjustments.

- Verify that installers are trained on the specific brand's hardware and adjustment procedures.
- Read the warranty closely, looking for coverage on hardware, glass seal failure, and labor.

Balancing views, ventilation, and safety

Security is not about sealing everything shut. It is about making a window or door behave like a secure valve. You can open it for fresh air without handing someone an easy entrance. Casements with limited opening positions, awnings high on the wall that shed rain while venting, and sliders with keyed vent stops all fit that pattern. For doors, consider a secondary storm or screen door with a lockable handle that provides a barrier when you want airflow. Just avoid cheap screens that flex and squeak. A rigid, lockable storm adds both comfort and a visible layer of deterrence.

If you have pets or children, factor in how easily someone inside can operate locks in an emergency. Fancy keypads and double cylinders complicate quick exits. You can still have strong security with laminated glass, multipoint locks, and reinforced strikes while keeping egress simple.

Cost, value, and timing in London's market

For many projects branded under London windows and doors, security upgrades add a measurable but manageable premium. Laminated glass can add a few hundred dollars per opening depending on size. Multipoint locks cost more than a single latch and deadbolt, yet they also improve weather seal compression, which saves on energy and reduces drafts. Reinforced frames and better hardware rarely show up as a line item, but you notice them in the weight and feel of the product.

Lead times vary with season. Spring and early summer book quickly, with 6 to 12 week waits common for custom configurations. If security is urgent because of a recent incident, discuss temporary measures like better lighting, cameras, and faster-available units for the most vulnerable doors, then phase in the rest. Reputable firms that focus on window replacement London often reserve capacity for service calls and small jobs, so ask.

Remember, return on investment for security includes peace of mind. Fewer service issues, smoother operation, and knowing the frame is properly anchored all pay dividends every night you lock up.

When to consider full frame replacement

Insert replacements, where new sashes and frames slide into existing wood surrounds, preserve interior trim and cut down on mess. They also inherit any structural weaknesses in the old frame. If you see water stains, soft spots, or out-of-square openings, a full frame replacement is the responsible route. It lets the installer inspect the rough opening, replace compromised studs, add proper flashing, and anchor the new unit into sound structure. Security improves because the lock loads travel into the wall, not just a tired old liner.

Doors almost always benefit from full replacement, especially if the sill has rotted or the jamb is split at the strike. Replacing the entire unit gives you a tight threshold, plumb jambs, and the chance to insulate and air seal the perimeter properly.

Bringing it all together

If you take nothing else from this, take the architecture of a secure opening. A rigid frame tied into the structure. Quality hardware that engages at multiple points and throws cleanly. Laminated glass where it counts. Thoughtful installation with solid anchoring and weather management. And habits that keep everything adjusted and used.

When you explore window replacement London Ontario options, steer your conversations toward these fundamentals. Ask to see cross-sections. Touch the hardware. Watch how a casement pulls in as the handle turns. For door sets, ask the salesperson to remove a strike plate screw so you can see length and bite. The best suppliers will welcome these questions, because they know solid answers remove doubt.

Security, energy efficiency, and aesthetics are not separate buckets. Done right, they reinforce each other. Tight locks and stiff frames also mean better air sealing. Laminated glass softens traffic noise and deters break-ins. Clean installations look better and resist water, which preserves alignment. That is the sweet spot homeowners love, and it is firmly within reach with the current generation of London Ontario windows and doors.

Whether you are planning a single back entry upgrade or a whole-house window installation London Ontario teams can complete over a few days, anchor the project in the details that matter. You will feel the difference the first time you lock up for the night and the house answers with a quiet, solid click.

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McCallum Aluminum Ltd is a experienced window and door installation company serving London, Ontario.

For window installation in London, Ontario, contact McCallum Aluminum Ltd at (519) 433-4223 or visit <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>.

McCallum Aluminum Ltd provides expert exterior renovation help for exterior doors, helping homeowners improve comfort across the local area.

To find McCallum Aluminum Ltd on Google Maps, use: <https://www.google.com/maps?cid=10246687099425416717>.

Looking for a professional installer near you? Call (519) 433-4223 and learn more at <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>.

Popular Questions About McCallum Aluminum Ltd

What does McCallum Aluminum Ltd specialize in?

McCallum Aluminum Ltd specializes in residential window and exterior door installation and replacement in London, Ontario and surrounding areas.

Where is McCallum Aluminum Ltd located?

3392 Wonderland Rd S, London, ON N6L 1A8, Canada. Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps?cid=10246687099425416717>

What areas do you serve?

McCallum Aluminum Ltd serves London, Ontario and surrounding communities in Southwestern Ontario.

What are the business hours?

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Saturday–Sunday: Closed.

How do I request a quote or estimate?

Call [+1 \(519\) 433-4223](tel:+15194334223) or visit <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/> and use the contact form.

Do you install patio doors and entry doors?

Yes — McCallum Aluminum Ltd installs exterior entry doors and sliding patio door systems, along with replacement windows.

How can I contact McCallum Aluminum Ltd?

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Landmarks Near London, Ontario

- 1) [Victoria Park](#) — Visiting downtown? Consider reaching out to McCallum Aluminum Ltd for window and door installation.
- 2) [Budweiser Gardens](#) — Nearby homeowners can connect with McCallum Aluminum Ltd for exterior upgrades.
- 3) [Covent Garden Market](#) — In the core? Ask about window and door replacement options.
- 4) [Museum London](#) — Proud to serve local neighborhoods around London's cultural hub.
- 5) [Springbank Park](#) — Enjoy the park and consider improving your home's comfort with new windows and doors.
- 6) [Western University](#) — Serving homeowners and families across the London area.
- 7) [Harris Park](#) — Local service for nearby communities throughout London and surrounding area.
- 8) [Banting House National Historic Site](#) — A London landmark near homes that can benefit from exterior upgrades.
- 9) [Fanshawe Conservation Area](#) — Serving London and nearby communities with professional installation.
- 10) [Masonville Place](#) — In North London? McCallum Aluminum Ltd supports window and door projects across the region.