



IS SECURITY WINDOW FILM SOMETHING YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FOR YOUR CHURCH?



Many church organizations are coming to the conclusion that Security Window Films are appropriate for vulnerable windows and doors in their places of worship. But how do you choose the level of protection that will give you the peace of mind you seek at a budget you can afford. Window Films range in thickness from 4 mil to 18 mil. They can keep out everything from casual opportunist thieves to attackers with guns and bombs. And the costs will range from \$9-20 (per square foot) for most applications all the way to \$100+ for ballistic protection.

Below are some questions which, when answered will give a Threat Assessment expert the information he/ she needs to give you the best advice.



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1. What type of windows and doors do you currently have?

a. What is the glass thickness?

The thinner the glass, the more protection you will need. In other words you would use a thicker film on thinner glass. Are the windows double pane or single pane? Double pane is stronger and more difficult to break through.

b. Are the windows annealed or tempered?

Tempered glass will fail and fall out once the panes are initially broken. For this reason, tempered windows must have an attachment system applied after the film is installed on the windows. This will then keep the glass and film in place, even after the glass is broken. Annealed glass is not as strong and easier to break, but the glass holds together better once broken.

2. How old are the windows?

If you are thinking of window replacements within the next 5 years, it might be best to have the windows replaced now before spending money on security film. This could save money in the long run.



3. Do the windows currently have Low-E or other coatings?

Some security films also serve as solar films, which offer heat reduction. The savings associated with the amount of heat reduced, will actually pay for the cost of the film over time.

4. What types of window frames do you currently have?

Wood, aluminum and Vinyl frames are the most common. This is important as it determines the method of installation.

5. What type of assault or threat are you trying to mitigate?

An attacker with a crowbar would find it difficult to break just about any thickness of glass if security film is applied. An axe is more powerful and to keep out an attacker would require a thicker window film. Perhaps the attacker decides to shoot the windows then try to kick in the glass. What level of protection is most appropriate for your situation?



6. Is the Church in a well populated area or in a remote location?

If you are located in an area with homes or businesses close by, there is a better chance of a neighbor hearing glass break or a disturbance. In a remote location a higher level of security may be appropriate.

7. Is the surrounding area open space or is there lots of trees to provide privacy around the Church?

The more private a location is, the more likely it becomes a target.

8. Is the Church normally empty, or is it almost always occupied, even on weekdays?

Is your concern for security based on a fear of break ins and vandalism resulting in loss of valuables or a fear of an assault on parishioners during a church service?



9. In the event of an attack, how long is needed to keep an intruder out of the Church?

Do you have protection inside the church and just need a few seconds or minutes to get prepared? Are you prepared to use guns to defend yourselves? How long is needed for you to locate these items and call 911?

10. Do you lock the doors during a service and/ or employ security guards?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then are the security guards armed and placed inside or outside the church? We recommend locking doors even if guards are present.

11. Do you have a reason why you consider your organization more prone to attack and have there ever been threats of attack before?

Some Churches could be more likely targets than others. In cases such as these we would likely recommend a more advanced level of protection as the attacker may not be put off so easily.

The answers to these questions will go a long way to determining the appropriate level of security required from a window film installation. As always when dealing with personal protection it's better to have too much than too little. Better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it.