

May I replace a security barrier by **blocking up** windows or doors?

No. The ordinance prohibits replacing a security barrier by covering up a door or window with opaque materials such as wood, bricks, or plastic.

May I reinforce the **decorative** door with grillwork?

Yes. The rules only regulate barriers that lead to the doors, and not the doors themselves. However, if your building is located in a historic district, you must submit your plans for a security door to the Historic Preservation Commission.

What about security barriers **inside** my business?

Security barriers are allowed inside buildings, but they must meet the following standards.



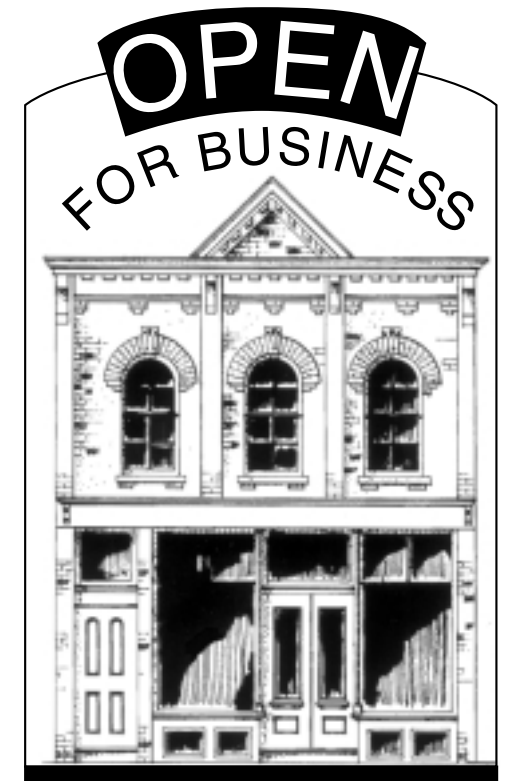
- If the security barrier can be opened, it must remain open during business hours.
- The color of the security barrier and the hardware used to install it must match the window casings or mullions or door frame.
- The security barrier must be no more than 25 percent opaque. In other words, you must be able to see through the barrier. The security barrier must meet State exit standards.

YES, security barriers are allowed on the **exterior** of residential properties?

For more information about security barriers on commercial buildings, contact the City of Milwaukee, Department of Neighborhood Services, Commercial Code Enforcement Section, 286-3874.



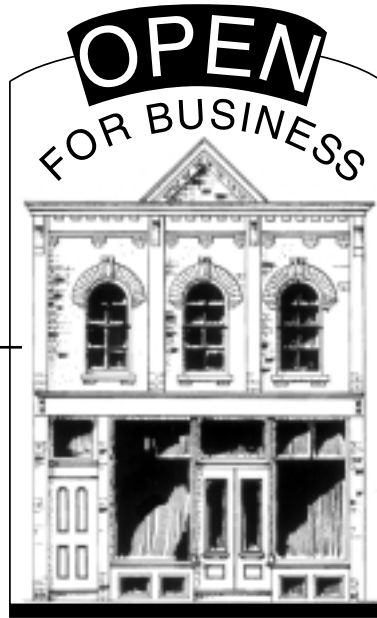
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SECURITY

BARRIERS

**on
commercial
buildings**



The way a business looks on the outside can have a big impact on how many customers go inside. Attractive window displays, glimpses of the shop's interior, and facade improvements all communicate a welcoming message that you're open for business.

Exterior security gates can have the opposite effect. Although they're supposed to keep criminals out of business establishments, they often keep customers out, because they create a perception that a commercial district is unsafe.

In early 1998, the Milwaukee Common Council heard extensive testimony from neighborhood business representatives and business owners about the negative impact of security barriers. In response, the Council banned the installation of security barriers on the outside of commercial buildings, and established standards for interior security barriers. The security barrier ordinance also allows the board of a Business Improvement District to set stricter rules for interior security barriers.

The ordinance defines a security barrier as any device meant to limit access to exterior doors, exterior windows, or an entire building facade. Typical examples are window bars, fixed metal grills, and side-mounted or overhead-mounted retractable metal security gates or grills.

May I install a security barrier on the **outside** of my commercial building or business?

Effective July 1, 1998, it is illegal to place a security barrier on the portions of a commercial building exterior that face a public street or streets in the following seven zoning districts: restricted office, residential and office, neighborhood shopping, local business, commercial service, regional shopping or central business district. Exterior security barriers are allowed on portions of the exterior that do not face the street. To determine the zoning of a property, call 286-8211.

Are **outside** exterior security devices allowed?

Yes. Strengthened vision glass, non-glass transparent materials such as Lexan, electronic alarms, and security cameras may be installed on the exterior of a commercial building.

What if I **already** have an exterior security barrier?

If an exterior security barrier was in place on July 1, 1998, it may remain until a new certificate of occupancy or certificate of zoning is issued for the premises. Once such a certificate is issued, however, the security barrier must be removed from the exterior of the building within 180 days.