



AIG Crisis Solution
Prevention Management

Safe rooms



A safe room is designed to be a secure place where an individual or a group of people can request help and wait for the police or security forces to arrive. An armoured car is a mobile version of a safe room.

Safe rooms were initially created to be used as a safe refuge in strategically important buildings such as embassies, in case they should come under attack.

In recent years, they have become popular in a wide range of buildings where there may be a security risk. They are particularly popular with high net worth individuals keen to protect themselves and their families if someone enters their property.

A safe room will only prevent entry for a finite time. For example, the glass in an armoured vehicle is only designed to withstand three bullet impacts in the same area before it breaks. Therefore, a timely response is important.

A safe room is only effective if it is used as part of an overall security plan for a family or organisation.

Specialists are available to talk you through this booklet and provide any additional information that you require.

Get in touch on

pcprevention@aig.com
to arrange a telephone appointment.

Designing an effective safe room

A safe room should have no windows and preferably only one entrance.

The walls must be substantial and not made of internal wood partition- or stud wall-type construction; ideally the floor and roof should be made of concrete.

Ideally a safe room should have the following features:

- A reinforced door that can withstand an attack for at least 30 minutes
- Bolts on the top and bottom of the door
- A mobile phone permanently in the room, on charge
- A medical kit
- A torch
- A panic button alarm system

Location

A safe room must be close enough to get to easily during a crisis situation.

In a home, the safe room should be close to the living space or the sleeping areas. If a security situation happens during the night, the family – and especially the children – will be sleepy and at their most vulnerable. Therefore, a safe room just a few steps from the bedroom is a good location.

In some buildings, there may be a need for more than one safe room on different floors – for example, in office buildings or schools where there is an active shooter threat. A safe room must always be large enough to accommodate all of those needing protection.

Communications

The safe room must contain lighting and power and a panic button, and mobile phones must work inside it.

Communications must be tested to make sure that they work under all emergency conditions.

Alarm and evacuation procedures

A safe room alarm – which alerts people that they should go to the safe room – should be different to an evacuation alarm or a fire alarm, so that there is no confusion.

All members of your family/any employees must practise the safe room drill, so that everyone can get to safety in the event of the alarm sounding. The drill should be rehearsed during the day and at night.

On no account should the safe room be opened until the security response has arrived. Any security response must be guaranteed and you should have complete confidence that it will be effective in the event of an emergency.