

Riot Glass vs Security Window Film



Feature	Security Window Film (e.g., 3M™ Safety & Security)	Riot Glass® Retrofit System
Primary Mechanism	Adhesive Film: Holds shattered glass pieces together together after impact.	Physical Shield: A separate, virtually unbreakable glazing layer mounted in a patented framing system securely attached to the building.
Level of Protection	Delay: Slows down an intruder by making the glass harder to penetrate, buying time for police response.	Denial: Designed to withstand prolonged, violent attacks with heavy tools (sledgehammers, axes) without breaching.
Impact Resistance	High: Can withstand significant force, but will eventually tear or be pushed out of the frame with sustained effort.	Extreme: The polycarbonate or laminate shield absorbs massive amounts of energy and is nearly impossible to break through manually.
Structural Dependence	Relies on Existing Window: The film's performance is limited by the strength of the existing glass and frame holding it.	Independent System: Its patented framing system is anchored to the building's structure, not the window itself, offering far greater strength.
Ballistic (Bullet) Options	No: Standard security films are not rated to stop bullets.	Yes: Specific Riot Glass® packages are available with UL-rated ballistic protection for active shooter scenarios.
Installation Type	Applied to Surface: Installed directly onto the interior or exterior surface of existing glass.	Retrofit Assembly: A custom-engineered framing and glazing system installed over the existing window opening.
Ideal Applications	Residential homes, ground-floor offices, basic retail "smash & grab" deterrence, blast mitigation.	High-value luxury retail, government buildings, schools, cannabis dispensaries, critical infrastructure requiring forced entry or ballistic denial.
Investment Level	Moderate	Significant