

MODUL-X® Advantages

CITYSAFE'S Modular High Security Safe

DESIGN / BUILD

Made in USA in small runs, these safes were born from our commercial line of safes. They are manufactured to be easily serviceable and simple in design for dependable operation. While some safes are built more like pretty furniture, our safes are designed to be strong, functional, and to protect its contents during a sustained burglary attack.

- MODUL-X achieved a UL TL30x6 rating without an exterior steel skin. Most other safes brag about the thickness of their steel... we used no steel and achieved an extremely high rating. (We tested our safes with a “raw” exterior, the way a high-security vault panel would be built– no steel over the barrier casting) On residential and commercial safes we add a steel skin for decorative purposes. All other safes rely on their outer skin as part of its burglary resistance.

- No hardplates were used to pass UL's test. Many other safes skimp on overall strength and just add protection at the lock. Our door and body composite is so strong we did not need a hardplate to protect the lock. We do however use a glass activated relocker for additional protection.

- Our full-length hinge is field replaceable if it ever becomes damaged or worn without the need to lift or remove the door. A ball bearing thrust washer provides long life. (Removal of hinge does not allow access to the interior of safe.)

MODULAR CONCEPT

- Modular so that it can be delivered and installed in locations typical safes cannot. MODUL-X safes can be delivered across expensive flooring and up or down stairs without creating damage.

- On average each high-security panel weighs 200 lbs., including door panels. Modular safes can be installed without the heavy equipment and special rigging typically used in high security safe installations.

- All panel joints and seams are stepped for security.

- By covering the panels during delivery, safes can be delivered without the public knowing what is being installed.

- Any panel damaged in a burglary attempt can be replaced, bringing the safe back to a like-new condition.

COMPOSITE CONSTRUCTION

Most composite safes are poured from either the top/bottom or back of the safe using a very loose mix so that it can reach the far corners of the safe. The more water in a mix, the weaker it is. CITYSAFE, on the other hand, casts each rebar laden panel laying flat on a vibrating table using a very thick, wire fiber enhanced, densified concrete-based slurry. Since each cast pour only has to move to a depth of 3.5" we are able to use a very dense mix and can closely monitor the casting to ensure that it reaches every corner of the panel and that there are no air pockets. Panels are poured from the outside in. On vault rooms, the exterior of each panel is the rough casting. On safes we weld a steel cover over the barrier. This cover, as mentioned before, was not necessary for the safe to meet UL standards.

FASTENERS

Our modular safes and vaults are assembled and fastened with certified high-strength bolts. These bolts take the place of welds seen on standard vault panels and steel plate safes. Why is this better? The strength of a weld is predominately based on the skill of the person doing the welding...so some welds are strong and some are weak, it varies. By using a certified and rated fastener we are able to provide the same high-strength connection each and every time, and so can you.

- During a burglary attack, sledgehammers can weaken and crack welds holding typical safes together. The high-strength alloy bolts used in MODUL-X safes have a much higher resistance to this form of attack and fatigue.

LOCKING

Standard locking in the MODUL-X safe is by variably located and remotely mounted digital locks to preclude the use of standard drill points and safecracking manuals. (Standard spindle driven combination locks, keylocks, and mechanical redundant locks are also available.)

- Digital locks can be moved and mounted in different locations and are NOT located behind the keypad as is the case in over 99% of all other safes. Moving the lock away from the keypad moves it out of the most often attacked area of a safe and does not allow spindle-hole opening techniques frequently published in safecracking manuals and touted in online safecracking forums. Safe manufacturers that offer digital locks as an option just remove the mechanical lock and install a digital lock in its place. This puts the lock right behind the keypad. Every time batteries are changed, you can look down the spindle hole and actually see the lock. Our safe protects the lock since it is not installed in this very exposed location.

- Glass activated relocks block the retraction of boltwork during a burglary attempt. Activation occurs if the lock is attacked, or if there is an attempt to force the boltwork into an open position.

Safes in R&D:

CITYSAFE is currently building forced entry resistant rooms and safes using our modular system. These will be built using steel only.

The Fire vs. Burglary question:

CitySafe's MODUL-X safes are high-security safes that withstand burglary attacks and whose composite construction also insulates from the heat of a fire. These are commercial-grade security safes. In order to further enhance the insulating qualities of our safe we use intumescent door seals that expand with heat to seal the door in a fire. All seams and joints are stepped so there is no direct access to the interior of the safe. We could probably do what some other manufacturers have done; give a 2-hour factory fire rating. We do not at this time, but will consider it in the future. In an informal test we took one of our 2" thick safes and heated it in a crematory at 1700 F for 40 minutes without charring the paper inside, so I feel very comfortable saying that you would get at least an hours worth of fire protection in our 3.5" thick safes. Most commercial customers are only concerned with burglary protection and rarely require any fire resistance or even ask for it. Most people asking for fire safes are looking to use the safe in their home. As you know there are many cheap residential fire safes available in all sorts of stores.

When asking residential customers why they are looking for a safe; for what purpose? They will usually respond- to protect valuables from being stolen and also to protect from fire. So why then do most people end up buying a fire safe with little or no burglary protection?

Most safes advertised for home use are just fire safes...an insulated box with a dial and handle to suggest the strength of a real safe. These safes are nothing more than thin sheet metal with either sheetrock or lightweight fill to insulate from heat. This construction provides virtually no protection from physical attack. A small hatchet can chop a hole in these safes with ease. Take a look at the size and weights of some of these less expensive safes. Our safes are two to four times as heavy as most safes in the same size range. Pound for pound our safe is one of the strongest out there.

According to FBI statistics, residential properties are 3 times more likely to fall victim to burglary than fire. So why do more people, when purchasing a home safe, choose a fire safe over a burglary safe? In my opinion there are a few reasons for this. First, most people don't realize they are choosing fire over burglary, they think they are getting both when in fact they are only buying an insulated box that mimics the look of a safe.

Another reason is price. A good burglary safe just costs more to make, there is no way around it...the steel is heavier, the boltwork is more robust, the locks are more costly, and in the case of a good composite safe, the barrier fill is much more expensive to produce.

Fire safes are far cheaper to make, cheaper to ship, and are more readily available, especially with all the cheap imports. You can find a fire safe at any large department or hardware store...Target, K-mart, Wall-mart, Home Depot, Staples...they all have a selection of safes you can pluck off the shelf, stick in your cart, and bring to the front counter where the cashier lifts it out of your cart to scan it. Most people don't think twice about the security of these safes when they drop it into the trunk of their car, drive it home and then carry it inside to secure their valuables. These types of safes are light and weak, but the advertising and pictures on the cardboard box they come in suggests otherwise with money, jewelry, and valuables shown being stored inside.

If all someone wants is a safe to store documents, deeds, passports, and birth certificates, I suggest they consider a fire resistant file cabinet that can properly hold and organize these important documents. But if what they really want is a safe to protect their valuables over say a long weekend from theft, or peace-of-mind during a vacation, then they should purchase a safe that can do the job it was intended to do, keep others out and their valuables safe and secure from a determined criminal.

MODUL-X is not your typical home safe, and will not fit everyone's budget, it is a high-security safe first, but built in a way that provides insulation from fire and heat.