

Anti-Barricade Wood Door and Frame Solutions for Behavioral Health Facilities

- Designers of behavioral health facilities have long looked for durable wood door solutions that could withstand high-risk environments like patient rooms, where traditional solid core doors fell short.
- AMBICO's Anti-Barricade Wood Door and Frame Assembly meets this need with a detention-grade steel core wrapped in hardwood edges and two-ply wood veneer, delivering the strength of steel with the warmth of wood to create a high-performance door that withstands physical abuse while supporting a calming, therapeutic environment.
- Designed for high-risk environments, these doors offer superior impact resistance and long-term durability, helping reduce maintenance and replacement costs. The proprietary detention-grade steel core outperforms traditional wood stave and lumber cores, delivering reliable performance even under sustained abuse.
- Assemblies are supplied with a heavy-duty double-acting continuous hinge and a removable door stop to enable anti-barricade functionality. In the event of a barricade, the door can be opened outward in seconds using a single-key system that controls both locks. This allows staff to respond quickly in emergencies without relying on override kits or complex hardware, helping keep both patients and caregivers safe.
- To support both the aesthetic and discreet security needs of behavioral health environments, AMBICO offers a range of wood veneer species and plastic laminate finishes. Custom factory staining, clear coating, or priming for paint are also available, enabling design teams to create calming, therapeutic spaces that support patient comfort and healing.
- AMBICO Anti-Barricade Assemblies are a trusted solution for behavioral health facilities. They are tested and approved by the New York State Office of Mental Health and are listed in their *Patient Safety Standards, Materials, and Systems Guidelines*, a widely recognized benchmark for behavioral health facility design and procurement.



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AMBICO's Anti-Barricade Doors follow the fourth strategy outlined in the chart.

Source: New York State Office of Mental Health Patient Safety Standards, Materials and Systems Guidelines

ANTI-BARRICADE STRATEGIES AT PATIENT ROOMS AND BATHROOMS

	ANTI-BARRICADE STRATEGIES	DESCRIPTION	DOOR TYPE	RELATIVE COST	REVERSABILITY	FIRE/SMOKE RATABLE	ACOUSTIC & VISUAL PRIVACY	COMMENTS
1	Standard in-swinging door without additional anti-barricade features	Use of Jaws of Life, wrecking bar or other method to remove door.	ALL TYPES	LOW	NO	YES/YES	YES/YES	Risk of injury. Requires stock replacement doors and significant labor. This strategy is not acceptable for bathroom doors per FGI.
2	Outswinging Doors	Door can be opened from outside room. owever, it may compromise path of egress.	ALL TYPES	LOW	YES	YES/YES	YES/YES	Risk of injury. Requires wide corridors or deep niches at entries with risk of reduced visibility. Not recommended.
3	Double-Swinging (DS) Doors with propriety emergency stop or continuous swing-away stops	Use of a key/tool to retract/swing-away the door stop at the latch side, permitting door leaf to swing outward.	ALL TYPES	MEDIUM	YES	NO/YES	YES/YES	Privacy mitigation is required with use of conventional hospital stops. Use of non-keyed stops is not recommended. Note NFPA tolerances for fire and smoke rating. Door edge strength is critical with the use of emergency stops. Consider multiple stops if not using a continuous stop. Conventional hospital stops allow anyone to override them to gain access.
4	Double Swinging (DS) Doors with Removable Stop	Provide removable hollow metal/aluminum tops fixed to frame with tamper-resistant fasteners.	ALL TYPES	LOW	YES	NO/YES	YES/YES	Requires removal of stops to open door into corridor.
5	In-swinging Door with Removable Frame or Split Frame	Door and split frame can be detached from outside room.	ALL TYPES	MEDIUM	YES	POSSIBLE	YES/YES	Research needed to develop and test prototype.
6	Door within a Door (Wicket) with Concealed Hinges	Allows secondary access through inset wicket door.	WOOD	HIGH	YES	NO/YES	YES/YES	Non-normative. Meets smoke requirements but may not meet fire ratings due to its design. Manufacturing and installation tolerances may result in a wedgeable gap between door leaf and wicket leaf.



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