

## The Word On: Bullet Resistance

True or false? Bullet resistance means the same thing as bullet proof.

**False.** Many think they are one in the same, but they are indeed not. Bullet resistance simply slows down an assault. How much? That depends on BR materials and ballistics.

When classifying bullet resistance, most rely on Underwriters Laboratories test results, and specifically UL 752, which specifies ballistic and forced entry protection requirements for materials. There are 8 levels of protection, with varying thickness and weight to (1) manage the impact of different bullets/guns, (2) enhance visual and audio clarity and (3) affect ability to withstand span and wind effects. Ultimately, the higher the level, the better protection. For instance, Level 1 will only protect against 9MM handguns whereas Level 3 can protect against a .44 magnum. These BR ratings can be applied to glass or glazing, doors and wall panels. All elements work together to ensure a more protected environment.

This brings us to Ballistics 101. Some key facts to consider when contemplating the level of bullet resistance deemed appropriate for your facility:

- Heavier bullets have greater impact
- Higher caliber bullets have lower velocity and are therefore easier to stop
- A gun with a longer barrel escalates bullet speed/velocity
- Lead bullets = high impact, low penetration, and accuracy for a shorter range
- Semi-jacket (copper) bullets = medium impact, longer range, higher penetration
- Full copper jacket bullets have intensified effects of the semi-jacket
- Steel jacket bullets result in maximum penetration
- Explosive head bullets result in maximum tissue damage
- Teflon coated bullets can penetrate hard surfaces
- Armor piercing bullets are made of solid steel to penetrate metal

BranchServ is here to help you navigate the world of bullet resistance and devise a strategy that is the best fit for your organization. Read more about our options at: [http://www.branchserv.com/vendors/category-bullet\\_resistant\\_equipment.php](http://www.branchserv.com/vendors/category-bullet_resistant_equipment.php) or reach out today to [sales@branchserv.com](mailto:sales@branchserv.com)