

BROWN SAFE





BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

BEAT BURGLARS AT THEIR OWN GAME WITH BROWN SAFES THAT PROTECT YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS IN STYLE

Forget everything you previously knew about safes. No longer ugly, hard-to-maneuver metal boxes crammed full of rarely touched documents you want to keep out of sight down in your basement or concealed behind closed doors that don't see the light of day, modern-day safes are high-tech, ultra-accessible chests with striking designs that protect your valuables and help you organize your life, which you'll have to stop yourself from showing off to your friends. This is one piece of contemporary design you can't do without and is today recognized by everyone who's anyone as standard furnishing adorning the homes of the affluent. Don't be left out in the cold, as the market now offers an incredible array of luxury safes to meet diverse needs.

For watch collectors, remember that big-ticket timepieces are a thief's dream. They are easily portable and fetch a nice price for something so small in size, as compared to someone trying to steal the hot new ride parked in your driveway — a sure sign to any would-be thieves that what's inside the house is surely worth their time. Yes, insurance may offer some reassurance, but it isn't much consolation if you've spent a lifetime building up a collection of irreplaceable wrist-based real estate with sentimental value. But there's a better option for giving you peace of mind: a high-quality safe from Brown Safe Manufacturing, the leader in the field. We're talking about real security, not a simple steel box with a lock on it. Plus it's much more convenient to keep the things you love near at hand to enjoy at all times, instead of locked up in a bank vault miles away.

Ignore the movies that make it look like you can break into a safe in a matter of minutes. It's a lot harder in reality for the crooks of this world to get their hands on your family heirlooms and precious belongings. Imagine a safe custom-built for your favorite jewelry, watches, pens, cigars, weapons, art and even Hermès bags, while providing best-in-class military-derived security. And the good people at Brown Safe

On the cover:
The Chronos STK 6218 with a full carbon fiber wrap and Orbita watch panel, diamond stitching and other luxury and security protocols that well exceed the M rating

Opposite: Custom designs for the Man 2418 safe with customized ebony hardwood trim

will help you install yours so that burglars have no room to bring in devices that would loosen it from its chosen spot.

The brand's luxury safes offer high-grade burglary defense with optional fire protection and extensive upgrades to enhance convenience, appearance and organization. So you can choose from a variety of exterior finishes and colors, while being able to gain quick access to all your valuables. These safes can even include custom watch storage configurations fitted with automatic watch winder panels, and come standard with many advanced protection features, with the option of increasing them. With myriad extras and available upgrades, luxury safes may be pricier than standard burglary and fire safes, but you can never be too safe when it comes to the things you love.

Rest assured that Brown safes are so secure that you can leave them out in the open for quick and convenient access rather than hidden in the attic four floors up or disguised behind a false door or wall that's out of reach and not worth the trouble getting to, thus leading you to leave your watch on your bedside table within easy reach of thieving hands. Gone are the days when you were ashamed to exhibit that ugly safe — these are works of art brimming with proven defenses, custom-crafted to meet your needs and show your individuality.

Consider how long it takes to open or access your safe, as you are more likely to use it the more convenient it is to enter. The idea is to keep it simple and not to overthink the planned location for the safe. Of course, concealing your safe is fine, but not at the cost of overall convenience. It's wiser to store the valuables you use daily or weekly in a not-so-hidden location so that it becomes a daily habit to lock away your treasures, and to depend on the safe to do its job, rather than trying to outthink the burglar and, perhaps, yourself. If the safe is well built, it will protect its contents even if your home is burglarized.

A safe not only protects your valuables, but also helps you optimize your time. Rather than trying to track down something that has gone missing, this highly configurable personal organizer that guards what's inside brings together everything precious in your home. Interior drawer layouts are customizable, offer flexibility, and are easy to add and remove as your collections grow or change. By positioning drawers at a suitable height, you can see into every drawer while standing and remove items without excessive bending.

The Sum of All Watch Safes

Brown Safe's Chronos series stands alone in the world of luxury watch safes. With no direct competition, each Chronos safe is entirely customizable and can incorporate practically as many complications as an haute horlogerie timepiece. Constructed out



This spread: The Chronos STK 4218 is a high-security vault that can be customized with additional luxury or security features. Such features include watch carousels, custom finishes, specialized displays, three-movement timelocks, multi-sensor alarms, GPS anti-theft system and more



Opposite, clockwise from top left: Quick-change drawers allow you to keep your most precious belongings wherever you wish; a custom monogrammed entry display incorporates a lock and handle; biometric security features offer top-level security; three-way titanium locking bolts with twin bolt carriages protect your prized possessions; a timelock system is the ultimate security



of military-grade ballistic armor used by military vehicles, and fortified to withstand severe attack by gunfire, grenades and missiles, it offers a level of security well beyond regular burglary protection ratings. High-carbon drill bits and saws pose no threat even when pressed onto the safe's surface. "While it's highly unlikely one of our luxury safes will take a hit from an RPG, we find the extreme hardness of ballistic armor makes it the perfect material for countering all forms of penetration attacks," says vice president of Brown Safe, Lynel Brown.

Chronos safes meet and exceed the M protection rating, the highest level of burglary protection offered at Brown Safe for solid door, body and bolt-work. Although the door and jamb are the primary weaknesses of most safes, Brown Safe's pry-resistant doors are designed to act like a fortress, so they then become a criminal's worst nightmare. A solid, welded door bolt carriage, coupled with a solid interlocking door that ranges in thickness from a half-inch of solid steel up to four inches of layered steel, armor, copper and fire cladding, will greet any would-be thieves. Add 12 oversized solid titanium locking bolts and you get an impregnable safe zone. Other key protection features include four-way bolt-work with anti-drive, glass plate relocking system, chip carbide hard plate and four 5/8-inch floor anchor bolts.

Pick from two standard sizes: the Chronos 4218 model (48 x 24 x 26 inches, exterior dimensions; 1,350 pounds) with two 1.5-inch drawers, one two-inch drawer, two five-inch drawers and 16 inches of open shelf space, or the 6218 model (68 x 24 x 26 inches, exterior dimensions; 1,750 pounds) containing 22 inches of open shelf space with four 1.5-inch drawers, three two-inch drawers and two five-inch drawers. Then select a winder configuration: an automatic watch carousel for those who like viewing their collection in moving tiers; a watch panel that allows you to conveniently display and access your watches at once with four winders organized across; or watch drawers capable of holding four winders per five-inch drawer.

Stainless, titanium and black is the most popular finishing. You can also opt for other combinations of stainless and titanium with gold, oil-rubbed bronze or pearl. Choose from an extensive range of exterior color options, or custom paint colors and finishes, a secondary exterior color on the door, a sand, gray, charcoal or black ultrasuede interior, and you can also add a carbon-fiber trim package for the entire exterior door and body, with matching accents on the interior drawers. The convenience of small- and medium-sized safes may be facilitated by ballistic-armor custom pedestal risers that elevate them off the floor to a height that provides optimum access, as an optional luxury feature, or customize the integrated entry handle by inserting your initials, logo, family crest or other unique design. Don't forget to add handsewn details and accent stitching for the final touch.

Forgo messing about with a combination lock; instead, let your fingerprint open your safe via a military-grade biometric fingerprint-reading lock and passcode keypad that communicate through a scrambled signal to avoid direct tapping and reject the use of false fingerprint reproductions. The exterior housing of each lock is machined from a singular block of aerospace-grade aluminum — exclusive to the Chronos line. And if you'll be out of town for a while, select a time lock to make sure the safe is off limits to you and anyone else who tries to access it for a set period of time.

Other optional security features include a GPS antitheft system and multi-sensor alarm with home automation incorporation. Some criminals will decide to make off with the safe once they realize they can't directly break into it, even if this means removing multiple penetrating anchors into the concrete or wood floor beams and moving a massive and hefty object. That's where the GPS tracker housed within comes in handy. The moment it detects that the safe is being moved off the premises, it signals an alert via phone, email and text, along with continual updates of its location anywhere in the world. Additionally, Brown safes may be equipped with numerous sensors that directly interface with existing security or home automation systems to notify owners of intrusions, hold-ups or if the safe door is unlocked or open, as well as a panic button that silently alerts security personnel.



Real-World Testing

As the science of safekeeping doesn't stop evolving, Brown Safe continuously seeks out barriers to obstruct increasingly sophisticated safecrackers and make its safes virtually impossible to burglarize. Brown's years of conducting its own research and testing on cutting-edge materials and technologies puts it light years away from the competition. For the past 35 years, the company has been producing safes for the military sector globally as part of its core business, and this has given Brown Safes access to the latest fortification materials and technology that are usually off-limits to civilians. Housed in US embassies and military installations worldwide, these battle-hardened military safes are the same ones you can purchase for your home, with all the proper luxury trimmings and upgrades, of course. But what this basically means is that the safes are fully prepared for real-world attacks and can defend far beyond the capabilities of most residential safes. Like a military strategist, Brown Safe believes in staying one step ahead of the lawbreaker. Not only that, but their safes have been designed to be highly functional, providing fast and easy access and organized interiors for daily use.

"The startling truth is 95 percent of the safes built today are only designed to withstand attacks by common household tools for a maximum of five minutes. Even most high-end safes fare only marginally better," comments Lynel. But try attacking a Brown safe for hours or even days using every entry tool and weapon known to man, and you still wouldn't be able to crack into it. "A very high number of safe owners believe their safe to be secure, because outwardly, their safe will appear identical to a high-security safe. However, a quick look under the hood can reveal a huge discrepancy in the actual protection provided," states CEO Frederick Brown.



Opposite: Class M security features on Brown's safes allow it to resist bullets or even a rocket-propelled grenade attack

Left: Frederick Brown ballistic-testing a safe

Right: The Chronos STK 4218 safe with a custom matte finishing



The Big Locking Bolt Scam

Widely used in the safe industry, particularly in mid-level safes, though also in certain high-end luxury safes, this trick gives the illusion of a robust safe. Take, for example, a luxury safe equipped with fine hardwood jewelry drawers, an advanced electronics package and brass trim selling for over US\$60,000. You can't help but notice its extremely thick fortified door coupled with five huge two-inch-diameter locking bolts. Very impressive, you might think, but take a closer look. Where do the massive locking bolts go? Into the side of the door carriage, but they don't appear to continue through into the door's inner housing area. Instead, they're held in place by tiny quarter-inch bolts and an extremely thin bolt carriage.

This is a burglar's dream come true as the bolts pass through the carriage at only one point and, when the door is locked, the thin bar holding the bolts in place is butted directly up against the carriage, thereby providing weak defense against leverage attack. Using just a simple crowbar, the bolts and carriage could buckle and give way. Be warned though that this poor safe design is not the exception, but the norm. Many of the top-selling safes today employ these ineffectual construction methods. The only way to get around this is to do your research before buying.

Tricks of the Trade

Don't be tricked into buying an inexpensive, unrated, RSC-rated or fire-only rated safe. Remember that placing valuables in an insubstantial safe simply provides the criminal with a convenient location to steal them quickly and in one go. This is worse than having no safe, as it facilitates the theft by grouping all precious items into one easy-to-open box. Over 90 percent of today's top-selling safes do not provide sufficient burglary protection and can be forced opened within minutes by inexperienced criminals using a simple hammer and crowbar. Outwardly, these safes can appear resilient, sporting thick doors with very visible oversized locking bolts, which are nothing but simple household drywall panels wrapped in sheet metal, whose massive locking bolts terminate the moment they enter the door and are held in place by pencil-thin fasteners.

The decision of which safe manufacturer to use is not a straightforward one — after all you are essentially staking the contents of your safe on your choice. You're relying on the claims of the builder that the safe you're purchasing will adequately protect the objects you love to the best of that manufacturer's ability. Those who make and sell impostor safes abuse buyers' trust and expose them to the loss of their cherished items. Knowledge of the construction process is the primary tool to ensuring the wellbeing of your belongings. Often if it appears too good to be true, it usually is. While cheap safes may be a cause for concern, more expensive luxury safes can be just as insecure and put you at serious risk of theft.

Fortunately, that's where Brown Safe comes in, as they specialize in industry-recognized, high-security built-to-order custom and luxury safes as well as antique vaults. The top-of-the-line safe produced by the majority of manufacturers is where Brown Safe's base unit begins. Its time-tested safes have been hand-built for three decades in its US factory by craftsmen each with over 20 years of experience in safe-building. By selling directly to customers, it eliminates costly overhead expenses that would otherwise make its safes unaffordable. Its prices are only slightly higher than those of far less secure but popular safes from unscrupulous manufacturers. Service being paramount, 60 percent of Brown Safe's clients are return customers or referrals from satisfied clients.

It's only natural that homeowners would want to have a hand in designing the object that will protect all that they deem precious. Imagine your vault door in the same red as your Ferrari supercar adorned with the Maranello logo or its interior in fuchsia for the ladies. When considering how best it will fit into your homes and lives, choose cabinetry matching your décor, configure the size, shape, material, color, finish, pattern and layout of each drawer or the number of watch winders on a particular shelf. One of the few remaining custom safe-builders in the world, each custom safe is one-of-a-kind, constructed to suit the exact requirements of

Opposite:
A customized Chronos STK 6218 safe with full carbon fiber finishings and 32-watch winder panel

Left: The Estate 7256 safe shown here is configured for jewelry and weapons storage





Below: The highly popular Gem 4018 Com concealed in a hardwood cabinet. This model is designed for jewelry storage

its owner, with only a marginal price increase that averages one-third more over a standard model, since Brown Safe is the direct builder of all its safes. Your safe is designed by a veteran in-house engineer, built by seasoned craftsmen and must pass personal inspection by the designer before delivery.

Brown Safe also manufactures a series of high-grade safes especially to meet the needs of the modern man: the Man Safe. Designed in three standard sizes and numerous interior configurations for watch enthusiasts looking for the most in protection, organization and convenient storage for their timepieces, the Man Safe features watch winders, stainless-steel drawer pulls and is can be personalized in terms of exterior color, lock and handle finish, and interior wood type.

For customers seeking greater security for their precious gems and jewelry, the Gem range of safes are designed to offer easy access to their jewelry so they can change their accessories with ease on a daily basis, while still providing great security for these items. Brown Safe designs offer the ease of daily use to the customer in a luxurious style that he or she requires, while providing the highest level of protection that can be found commercially, so you can set your mind at ease when securing your most prized possessions.

A Family Affair

Founded in 1980, San Diego-based Brown Safe Manufacturing is a family-owned high-end safe and vault company, combining state-of-the-art technology, well-thought-out design and fine craftsmanship. Its full line of impregnable products range from luxury jewelry and large-layout estate safes to specialized ballistic vault doors able to resist the impact of a .50-caliber sniper bullet. Clients include homeowners, jewelers, private collectors, filmmakers, celebrities, the military, police and security organizations, government embassies and research institutions. The company also provides security consulting services and is associated with a select group of specialists that together provide a full security solution for institutions, small businesses and private estates, even supplying its products and services for films including *Spiderman 2*, *The Italian Job* and *The Score*.

Frederick Brown is the brains behind the operation. After two years in the military engaged in intensive army operations in Vietnam in the 1970s, he graduated with an engineering degree and soon after started his own high-security safe line, based on certain core values he'd learnt through working with his father: excellent craftsmanship, long-term reliability and survivability. Initially a reseller, he had begun designing his own safes from his home workshop as he was dissatisfied with the quality of the safes he was selling. As the operation expanded, his daughter and son, Lynel and Timothy, became involved in the business. Sales increased steadily until an influx of highly affordable and very poorly built foreign safes, mainly from China, put most American safe-builders out of business. The surviving safe-builders decided to build inferior



Above left: Lynel Brown-Berryhill, vice president of Brown Safe

Above right: COO Timothy ensures Brown Safe maintains the highest standards of workmanship

Left: Frederick Brown, founder of Brown Safe

Right: Frederick Brown with his grandson

safes that could compete directly with the imports in terms of manufacturing costs, or chose to give up their role as manufacturers and became resellers of imported safes.

However, Frederick stayed true to his values and refused to cave in to the pressure to cheapen his creations, but sales dropped and the business struggled for years, relying primarily on military contracts and a dedicated workforce. Things turned around with the opportunities brought about by the Internet, which allowed him to market his high-end safes to a much larger global market, an initiative spearheaded by Lynel, who launched the first website in 2000 and also introduced Brown Safe to the luxury community. With a wealth of information on safes, the website is backed by an online forum and a newsgroup. An ace in all things mechanical, COO Timothy manages production, designs custom fabrications and converts concept designs into production-ready products. Today, Brown Safe's facilities occupy 75,000 sq ft, employing a workforce of over 45, while contracting out to numerous external agencies, and expansion continues at a rapid pace — its perseverance and focus on quality products have clearly paid off.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SAFE

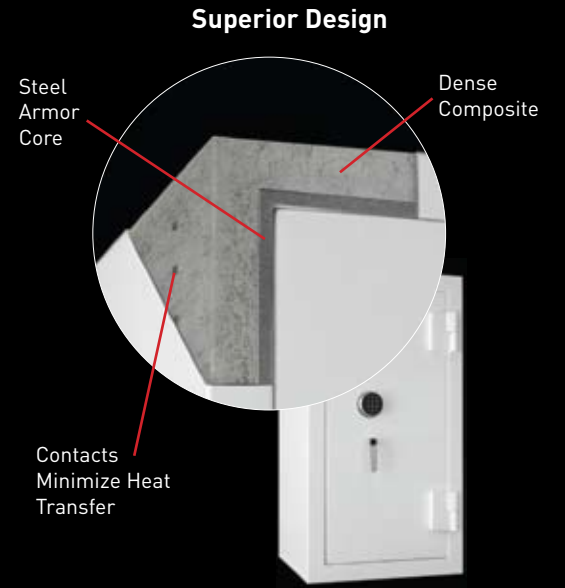
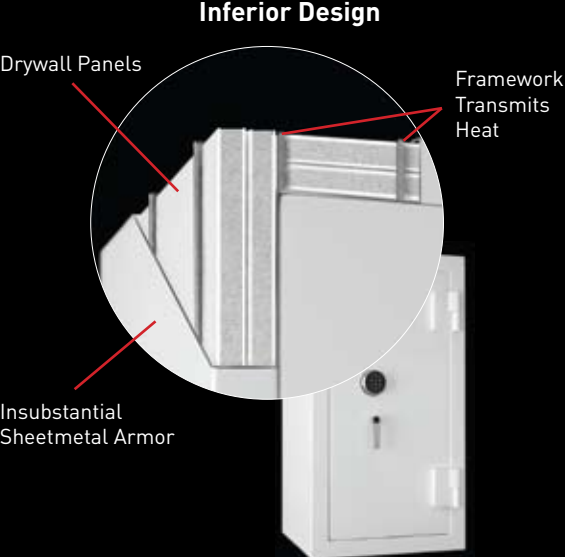
The first line of defense is the safe’s construction thickness. The safe must have a solid steel door that’s at least half an inch thick and solid steel walls at least one-quarter of an inch thick. Without this minimum level of protection, it can be opened within minutes. Many safes on the market fail in this area as steel is very expensive and heavy thus increasing the cost of building and shipping overseas to the reseller, so some manufacturers cut corners by making their safes out of thin sheet metal wrapped around drywall to give the misleading appearance of a robust safe.

Weight is one of the most important factors to determine the base ability of a safe to protect from both burglary and fire. A quality safe with solid steel and high-density concrete-based amalgamate walls will weigh much more than a safe made of cheap materials, often carrying three times the mass of an equivalent-sized safe constructed from thin sheet metal and drywall insulation panels (minimal fire rating and virtually zero burglary protection). Nonetheless, a heavy safe doesn’t necessarily mean it has a lot of steel. The weight could come from the composite material which is far less expensive, so it’s best to learn the actual steel thickness for both the door and walls. On average, a 60-inch tall false safe will weigh between 300lbs and 800lbs with fire protection, whereas true security safes of this size start at 600lbs without fire protection and attain 1,500lbs or more with fire protection.

Commonly found inexpensive-to-manufacture fire safes constructed with fireboard, drywall, fiberboard or other panel-based insulation materials (comprising 95 percent of all fire safes sold) provide inferior fire protection, in contrast to true composite or composite-clad fire safes, and practically no burglary protection. Insulation or fireboard also contain a lot of moisture that infiltrates the safe’s interior, creating a constantly damp environment during normal storage, which causes metal objects to rust or paper- and photo-based items to wilt.

Composite-clad safes with solid steel doors and walls housed within a layer of poured composite materials, similar in many ways to concrete, are basically high-security burglary safes, which undergo a fire-cladding process, greatly outperforming both fireboard and reinforced fireboard safes in both fire and burglary protection. Their solid steel core provides superior burglary defense, dense composite fire-cladding adds an additional level of security, barrier contacts minimize heat transfer into the safe, and the nominal steel shell reduces heat absorption. Because of the thick concrete-like casing, these highly rated fire safes are much heavier and will likely require professional installation.

All Brown Safe’s freestanding burglary-rated safes and vaults can be converted into fire safes through this cladding process, which essentially sheathes them within a two-inch dense shell of highly fire-resistant amalgamate. While there is no such thing as a completely fireproof safe, a fire safe is designed to protect the contents from fire for a rated amount of time, greatly increasing the likelihood that the contents will ultimately survive.



SAFE PROTECTION LEVEL RATINGS

- **NO RECOGNIZED RATING:** Almost 50 percent of all top-selling safe brands fall into this category. The manufacturer may create its own rating system that fails to correspond with any industry-recognized standard as an avoidance tactic to cover up safes that provide an unacceptable level of protection.
- **THEFT RESISTANT:** This simply means that the safe has a lock on it; no other protection level is guaranteed. A locked file cabinet could carry this same rating, as it provides about the same level of protection as this type of safe construction.
- **RSC (RESIDENTIAL SECURITY CONTAINER) (TL-5) RATING:** This Underwriters’ Laboratories-rated container certifies the safe can endure a beating by one man wielding a hammer and small crowbar for up to five minutes, which means that after this time, he can usually gain access to the safe. You wouldn’t want to put anything of value inside this sort of safe, yet it is one of the top-selling.
- **CLASS B RATING:** Weighing two to four times the mass of a RSC safe, Class B security safes are already a vast improvement in protection. They are equipped with a half-inch solid steel door and one-quarter-inch solid steel walls on all five sides — a good foundation that can easily resist hours of forceful abuse by amateur criminals or entry attempts by semi-skilled criminals for an hour or more, depending on the types of tools used. If the safe is outfitted with additional burglary countermeasures, it will withstand even skilled attackers for long periods of time.
- **Class C Rating:** These safes are double the weight of a Class B with double the steel thickness all around. This is a great step up in protection with a one-inch steel door and a half-inch steel body. Thus they provide approximately twice the penetration protection and will have about the same amount of added burglary countermeasures as Class B-rated safes.
- **Class E (TL-15) Rating:** Class Es start off with a 1.5-inch solid steel door, a one-inch body and generally weigh three times the mass of a Class B. Calculate in the fire cladding, and a mid-sized Class E security safe weighs as much as a mid-sized car, making it virtually

impossible for a burglar to haul out without the neighbors noticing, and able to withstand attacks by amateur and semi-trained burglars for a far longer time. However, the TL-15 rating means that an assisted seasoned safecracker with intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the safe and safe-specific tools can break into it in a minimum of 16 minutes. So if you believe that the contents of your safe are important enough to entice a burglar with more than 15 minutes available to attempt entry into your safe, you should upgrade to even higher protection ratings.

- **Class F (TL-30) Rating:** These safes have been proven to withstand attack for at least 30 minutes by a group of professional safecrackers armed with blueprints of the safe using a full range of tools and attack methods. Class F safes are composed of steel that often incorporates additional layers of varying metal, and include a whole array of measures and countermeasures aimed at further slowing entry attempts.
- **Class M Rating:** This is the highest standard rating Brown Safe offers, and one of the highest protection levels around. M-rated security safes are currently only manufactured by Brown Safe, and are reserved for its ballistic armor-encased safes and vaults. Currently working with the US military to develop a new protection rating for safes made with this plating, Brown Safe expects that the new GSA rating will surpass all current protection levels. The armor plating of an M-rated safe is of the same thickness in steel plating as a Class B-rated safe, but with penetration resistance equaling that of the strongest hard plate material available. So for locations where an excessively heavy Class F safe can’t go, like an upstairs bedroom, an M-rated safe will do the trick, while providing protection exceeding the Class F rating. After a test involving firing multiple .50-caliber anti-sniper bullets directly at the M-rated safe, it showed little to no visible indentation — a feat no other known safe is capable of achieving, and proof of its incredible strength. Conventional penetration entry attempts also have no effect on the armor. Carbide-tipped drill bits, for instance, have practically no success at boring through, as the armor’s hardness is an even match.

BROWN SAFE MANUFACTURING

285 Venture Street
San Marcos, CA 92078
United States

760-233-2293

www.brownsafe.com
sales@brownsafe.com

