

Crime Prevention

HOME SECURITY INFORMATION

This checklist is provided so homeowners may carefully assess where they live and how they can make their homes less of a target for burglars. Please look at each example to see where you can make needed improvements. If you have been a burglary victim or would like our assistance with your survey, please call us.

EXTERIOR

- Is your address clearly visible from the street?
- Are trees and bushes cut back to allow for natural visibility? Bushes should be no more than 2 feet high and tree branches at least 6 feet above ground.
- Is lighting sufficient to eliminate dark areas around your house?
- Are lights motion sensitive?
- Does a fence block visibility?
- Do you know your neighbors?
- Have you talked to your family about what to do if a burglary is discovered?

DOORS

- Are exterior doors of solid construction?
- Do doors, locks, and door frames fit securely?
- Does the door have a deadbolt?
- Does the door have a peep hole?
- Does the door have glass around it?
- Are all keys accounted for?
- Do you hide keys outside?
- Do you have an alarm system?

On average, a burglar will only spend from 60-90 seconds to enter your house. Don't make it easy for them.

You do not have to turn your home into a fort. You only need to slow burglars down and increase their chances of being seen or heard. A burglary occurs every 13 seconds in this country and 85% of them are committed by non-professionals.

WINDOWS

- Have double hung windows been pinned?
- Are locks in good working order?
- Do you have locks that allow you to lock a window that is partially open?
- Do basement windows have bars or some extra protection?

INTERIOR

- Do you keep a list of all valuable property including serial numbers?
- Is your property marked or engraved so that it can be identified?
- Do you provide extra security for guns and jewelry, i.e. safes and reinforced closets?
- Are lights visible from the outside when the home is unoccupied at night?
- Consider a small dog as a pet?

If you return home and discover a burglary, leave the house and call the police from another location. Follow instructions from the dispatchers and do not hang up until told to do so.

The officers will check your home to ensure the burglars are gone. They will tell you when to enter so you may begin to make a report. Tell the officers immediately if firearms are missing.

It is important to be as descriptive as possible, this is why pictures of valuables are important, as well as serial numbers.

Please remember your doors and windows are your means to escape in the event of a fire. Do not strengthen them so much that it delays a quick exit.

Stay alert to what is going on in your neighborhood and call the police when you see suspicious activity. Work with your neighbors to watch each others' property.

