

HOME SECURITY

The facts about burglary...

- In many burglaries, no force is used. This means burglars get in through UNLOCKED doors and windows.

Residential burglars are opportunists who look for easy targets. If the risk of detection is too high, the average burglar will not attempt to enter your home. After determining a target, the average burglar spends just a few minutes burglarizing it.

Whether you leave your home for five minutes or five weeks, recognize that it is vulnerable whenever it is unoccupied. While you cannot be home all of the time, you can devise a home security program that works for you around the clock.

Criminal elements

Three elements are required for a crime to occur.

- Opportunity
- The victim
- The criminal

By removing just one of these elements, you can prevent a crime from occurring. You have control to not be a victim. By practicing safe habits, using security measures in your home and being aware of your surroundings at all times, you can take away or diminish the opportunity for the criminal to take advantage of you.

Most burglaries can be prevented

- Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for “just a minute.”
- Never leave a house key available:
Under a doormat, in a flowerpot, or on the ledge of the door; these are the first places a burglar will look.
- Consider an alarm system.
- Own a dog, for a small investment of time and money, a little training, treat them as one of the family and in return, you will have a loyal companion and family protector. They make lots of noise and most burglars will not take the chance of being bitten.
- Whenever you move to a new home, have the locks changed.

Going Out?

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use timers so that lights, radio, and TV go on and off throughout the house to indicate someone is home.
- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and newspaper delivery or have a neighbor collect them daily.
- In short, make your house look “LIVED IN.” Remember, if you come home and see a broken window or a jimmied door, do not go in. Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone the police department immediately.

Other Tips

- Install a wide-angle lens viewer in the front door.
- Never open the door without knowing who is there.
- Make your landscape pay for itself, keep trees and shrubbery trimmed to prevent intruders from hiding behind or in them. Use plants that are likely to be annoying or painful to them.
- Motion sensor lights are a great way to light up driveways and walkways.

If you would like to make life even harder for crooks — remember the following tips:

- Exterior doors should have “dead bolt” locks with a 1-inch strong metal bar extending into the doorframe.
- Sliding doors and windows should all have “ventilation” locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, patio, or other doors that lead out through storage areas or a spare room.