

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION



Most residential burglaries occur during the day when families are at work and school and increase during the summer months. They may seem random, however; burglars select their targets carefully based on a few simple criteria. These include homes that are unoccupied with canceled and quick escape routes. Once inside, burglars look for small expensive items that can easily be traded for cash. These include jewelry, small electronic devices, laptops and guns.

Protect yourself and make your home a less likely target with the following tips.

WAYS TO DISCOURAGE BURGLARIES

Bright Ideas:

- * Install lights by all exterior doors
- * Install outside light fixtures where bulbs are hard to reach
- * Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency response
- * Trim shrubs back from doors and windows

Vehicle Smarts:

- * Close the garage door
- * Leave only the valet key with parking attendants
- * Hide garage door openers in your vehicle

Doors and Windows:

- * Change locks when you move into a new residence
- * Always lock your doors and windows
- * Give a trusted neighbor a key-do not leave a key outside
- * Use solid core or metal exterior doors
- * Install 4 screw strike plates with 3 in. screws to penetrate the wooden door frame
- * Use dead bolt door locks on exterior doors and double cylinder dead bolt locks if glass is within 3 ft. of the door
- * Add auxiliary track type locks, add drop bars, wooden dowels or pinning devices to windows and sliding doors
- * Install peepholes with 160 degree views on doors

Landscaping:

- * Trim tree branches 7 ft. off the ground
- * Prune shrubs to under 3 ft. from the ground
- * Use motion sensors on exterior lights

Personal information:

- * Keep valuables in a safe deposit box
- * Use a locking mailbox

Dealing with strangers:

- * Never let strangers enter your home
- * Verify workers by ID cards and calling their employer
- * Never give keys to contractors/workers
- * Never leave notes for anyone on your door

While on vacation:

- * Consider hiring a house sitter
- * Ask neighbors to help with your trash bins and newspapers
- * Install a monitored alarm system
- * Ask a neighbor to park a car in your driveway while you are away
- * Use timers for indoor lights to make it appear as though someone is home
- * Have packages delivered to a neighbor or kept at the post office
- * Ask your neighbors to keep an eye out for unusual activity

Make safety a habit

Lock your home at all times

Be vigilant-watch for suspicious activity

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