

# Top Tips to Prevent Burglary



## *Here's a Checklist of Things You Should Do To Prevent Your Home From Being Invaded*

- \_\_\_ Keep all doors, windows, pet entrances and garage doors closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with at least 1" throw and reinforced Strike plate with 3" screws. All windows should have locks.
- \_\_\_ Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of wood in the track and install vertical bolts.
- \_\_\_ When service or delivery people come to your door, ask for ID. If you're still not sure, call the police first and report the stranger. Call the company to confirm.
- \_\_\_ Cut up cartons for TVs, computers, stereos, etc. Tie the pieces together so a burglar going through the garbage does not see any of your highly valuable household items.
- \_\_\_ Do not leave ladders or tools lying around outside. They can assist a possible intruder.
- \_\_\_ Install a wide-angle door viewer (peephole) in your front door so you can see who is at the door.
- \_\_\_ Organize a neighborhood watch program. Neighbors working together make one of the best crime-fighting teams around.
- \_\_\_ Make a home inventory list, complete with photos or video. Store this list in a safety deposit box.
- \_\_\_ Have a security plan in place and talk about it with your family and friends.
- \_\_\_ Write down the emergency telephone numbers of the local police and county sheriff's office and the numbers of several nearby neighbors. Keep the numbers by your telephone(s).
- \_\_\_ Don't put your name and residential address on your key ring. If you happen to lose it, a dishonest person could gain entry to your home.
- \_\_\_ Install and test a burglar alarm. Post signs in conspicuous locations that clearly indicate that the premises are protected by a burglar alarm.

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# Vacation Security Checklist

*Vacations Provide Burglars With Plenty of Time to Enter Your Home, Remove Large Items and Search Leisurely for Hidden Valuables. Don't Let This Happen To YOU!*

**If you're planning a vacation, take the following precautions to protect your home while you are away!**

- Ask police to check your home and patrol your neighborhood more closely while you're away.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries, or have a trusted neighbor collect them while you are away so that they do not accumulate.
- Secure all doors, windows, pet entrances and garage doors.
- Transfer valuables to a safety deposit box.
- Place Timers on indoor lamps to illuminate your home at night, and set timers to turn on radios and televisions randomly during the day and early evening.
- Place timers on outdoor lights so they turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn.
- Check that no bulbs are burned out on your indoor lamps, outdoor lighting fixtures or low voltage lighting system.
- Arrange to have your landscaping continue, or your driveways and walkways swept. An overgrown yard is an immediate indicator to burglars that nobody is home.
- Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal appearance.
- Have a trusted friend or family member check your home, inside and out, each day.
- Remove messages from your telephone answering machine daily so that the "beep" is always short. And don't indicate on your message that you are on vacation.
- Park a car half-way down your driveway to create the illusion that somebody is home as well as inhibit a burglar to use your driveway as a way to better access your property.
- Hide garbage cans in the garage or apartment.

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