**General Home Security Checklist**

This checklist was designed to help you go through your home and check to see that you are not inviting a burglary by having an "open house." The checklist covers the common areas of weakness in residential security.

Take a critical look at your home security every three to four months. Don’t become lax- CRIME PREVENTION IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS.

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| 1 | Do you plan so that you do not need to "hide" a key under the doormat? |  |
| 2 | Do you keep as much cash as possible, other valuables, and a home inventory in a bank? |  |
| 3 | Have you engraved all of your property with your driver's license number and included the state? |  |
| 4 | Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your watches, cameras, typewriters, TV's, stereos, and all items that have serial numbers? |  |
| 5 | Do you have a description of other valuable property that does not have a number? |  |
| 6 | Do you avoid unnecessary display or publicity of your valuables? |  |
| 7 | Have you told your family what to do if they discover a burglar breaking into or already in the house? |  |
| 8 | Have you told your family to leave the house undisturbed and call the police, if they discover a burglary has been committed? |  |
| 9 | Is your house number easily visible from the street, for police and other emergency vehicles to locate you? |  |

**Secondary Barrier - Security Closet**

If you have valuable items such as silverware or jewels, consider a secondary barrier. Install a solid core wood door with a one-inch deadbolt on a closet. Store your valuables in that area. Also, be sure to pin the hinges. If you use your master bedroom closet, it can become a momentary hiding place to flee in the event of an intruder. It would be even more effective if a cordless telephone were inside the closet to allow calling 911 and alerting the police to the intruder. Keep coin and stamp collections in a safe deposit box.

**CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY ABOUT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.**

Don’t worry about "bothering" the police or being embarrassed if your suspicions prove to be unfounded. Think ahead about what could happen if you don't act, Give the police or clerk:

* The reason for the call.
* The location of the activity.
* The description of the suspect and any vehicle involved.
* If a crime is in progress, provide the circumstances and possible crime being committed.