

Don't flaunt your belongings. Leave burglars guessing at what they will find and where to find them. Also, When you make large purchases, do not leave the empty boxes on the curb. Break them down and place them on the bottom of your trash pile on the day of pickup.

Inventory your possessions. You never know what you got until it's gone, so take an inventory of your possessions now. A written inventory is satisfactory, but other methods of documentation, such as video taping or still photographs, are also effective.

A Secure State of Mind

You might be doing things to invite burglars to your home.

Don't tell people you are away. Do not put notes on your door detailing your schedule. Do not leave messages on your telephone answering machine noting when you will return home.

Pay attention to people and vehicles. Take a good look at anybody in your neighborhood. He could be attempting to determine who is home during certain times of the day. If you and your neighbors gain a clear look at a thief or he senses that persons in the neighborhood are watching, he may decide that committing a burglary is too risky. Also, if someone looks suspicious write down their description, and the vehicle registration number, and call the police.

Talk to your children about home security. Ask them to remember always to lock the door and keep a careful watch on their keys.

If You Are Burglarized

What you do from the time you discover the crime until the police arrive is crucial.

If you return home and find your door or window ajar, go to a neighbor's home and call the police.

In the event of a surprise encounter with an intruder, attempt to flee, if you are blocked in, remain still and allow him to leave. Do not attempt to detain him, as he may be armed. Your television is replaceable, you are not!

Call the police immediately. The sooner you call, the greater the chance that your possessions will be recovered. While you wait for the police to arrive, don't touch anything or attempt to clean up the mess. You may ruin important evidence.

When the police arrive, provide them with a copy of your inventory. This will make it easier to identify a suspect who is caught with your valuables.

Don't Get Complacent

After you have instituted your security measures, evaluated then often. Your home doesn't have to look like Fort Knox to be secure, it is a good idea to evaluate its security periodically and determine if there's room for improvement.

Want More Information?

If you would like to learn more about how to protect your home from burglary, or start a Neighborhood Watch please contact Troop H, Harrisburg 717-671-7500 and leave a message for a "Community Services Officer."

Thank you

Thanks to Intermatic, Inc. and the Burglary Prevention Council for providing information used in this flyer. See the following original source: <http://www.burglaryprevention.org>.

Provided by:



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Home Burglary Prevention Guide



Burglary Statistics

General Statistics

- Burglars break into a house, apartment or condominium every 11 seconds.
- 60% of residential burglaries occurred during the daylight hours.

Time of Year and Burglary

- July had the greatest number of burglaries recorded.
- February had the least amount of burglaries recorded.

Burglaries by Classification

- 65% of all burglaries were by forced entry.
- 28% were by unlawful entry with no force, door, windows left unlocked.
- 7% were reported as an attempted forcible entry but on entry was made – the burglary gave up, was frightened off.

Security Can Be Affordable

Enhancing the security of your residence is much easier than you think. Keep in mind that the time you spend now may save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

Understand the Burglar

Residential burglars are often male teenagers who live near your home. They 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. Remember time, effort, and openness help you and deter him.

Current Security Measures

The first step in making your home secure is to evaluate your current security measures. The objective of this exercise is to identify every vulnerable area of your home. If it is not difficult to find the key hidden under the flower pot; a burglar can locate it, too. Can you climb your oak tree and gain access to a second floor window? A limber thief could do the same.

Your Neighborhood

Your neighbors play an important part in your overall burglary prevention program. Burglars tend to avoid neighborhoods that are collectively security conscious.

If your community doesn't have a neighborhood watch program, consider establishing one. An aware neighborhood is a safer neighborhood.

Remember your community could also work against you. Those who live near you are in the best position to know your schedule and whether or not you have valuables in your home.

While you can't treat every neighbor with suspicion, do not provide the temptation or opportunity by announcing trips or vacations to everyone you encounter.

Your Home Perimeter

Does your home tell people you are careful and alert?

When a criminal looks at your home, what would attract or discourage him from burglarizing it?

A well manicured lawn can be quite important in emphasizing that you pay close attention to your home. In the eyes of a burglar, an overgrown lawn suggests a vacancy and possible burglary target.

Overgrown or extremely large trees or shrubs can hide burglary activity, especially around your home's entry points. For security's sake have them trimmed or moved.

Fences can be an effective part of your security, but they may be a liability in hiding a burglar's activity.

Lights are another important crime deterrent for your neighborhood, but your personal residence should also be well lit.

You do not want to help a burglar break into your home, so watch what you leave in your yard. Your own ladders, screwdrivers, hammers or pliers can be used against you.

Home Entry Points

The average burglar has only two options for entering your residence: doors and windows.

Doors – keep them locked!

Doors are an important part of a successful security program. Hollow-core doors are easily kicked in. For external doors and door frames, opt for solid wood or steel. Avoid leaving gaps around the door frame, as this provides leverage for removing the door from its frame.

Sliding glass doors are a common entry point. Many of these doors can be lifted off their tracks. For maximum security, use vertical bolts. Also place a metal or solid wood rod on the inside track to hold the door closed.

Garage doors are another frequent entry point. The door that connects your garage to your home should have solid wood or solid-core construction. Secure it with a deadbolt lock. Don't rely on the electric garage door opener as your only security measure.

Back doors are a popular target. Back doors are popular for they are often hidden from the street and many homeowners leave them unlocked. It's important to keep your back door well light and install a deadbolt. These doors should have a solid-core as well.

Locks – Change keys and use deadbolts!

When you move into a new house, apartment or condominium, change all of the locks immediately. Also, anyone with a moderate amount of skill and desire can pick a common spring-latch. As a result, deadbolt locks are a necessary investment.

Windows – kept closed and locked!

One of the most common entry points for burglars is a ground level window at the rear side of a home. That's why you should use the same security measures on your windows as you would on your doors.

Remember that none of these measures will help you if you leave your doors and windows unlocked. It only takes a few minutes for a thief to take your most valued possessions. Always lock your doors, no matter how soon you plan to return.

Your Possessions

Make your possessions less attractive.

Engrave your driver's license number on valuables. Thieves find it harder to sell marked merchandise.