

How to Prevent Burglary

Take action to avoid home break-ins.



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Simply put: Burglars are looking for easy targets. Here are some tips for making your home the one they skip.

Lights

- Burglars prefer dark properties. Keep your home and property well-lit by pointing bright, motion detector lights at or near entrances.
- When you are away from home, leave some lights on. Better yet, schedule them to turn on at different intervals to make it seem like someone is inside.



Locks

- Not all locks are created equal. Locks vary in strength and the time it may take to cut or drill through them. Upgrade to heavy-duty, dead bolt locks for maximum protection.
- If you just moved into a new (to you) home or apartment, change the locks and add dead bolts for security.
- We recommend Medeco locks. Key cannot be copied at a hardware store. Also, they are very resistant to drilling and "bumping."



2.15 Million burglaries occur each year!

Doors

- Solid core wood and metal doors are strongest. Strengthen frames. Use enhancements!
- Add a wide angle peep hole so you are able to identify who is outside without opening it.
- Sliding glass doors are especially vulnerable. Secure them with a secondary lock or wooden dowel cut to length of the stationary window. Install screws at top to prevent "lifting."



Windows

- Keep windows locked, especially those on the ground floor.
- Install safety glass or laminate on lower level windows.
- If you have basement windows, use locked grilles or grates (which can easily be opened from inside in the event of fire)



The majority of all burglaries-65 Percent-are residential

Mail

- An overflowing mailbox in an invitation for identity thieves and burglars.
- Switch to a P.O. Box or have a friend empty when traveling.



Alarms

- Alarms systems are a great secondary safety investment. Buy an alarm that makes a loud noise AND alerts local law enforcement.
- Not up for a security system? A dog is another great form of security
- Check with your insurance company on alarm discounts



Yard Maintenance

- Remove shrubbery so you're able to see clearly outside.
- Cut down tree limbs close to elevated windows to prevent climbing access
- An unkempt yard may signify your absence. Have a friend or contractor keep your lawn maintained.
- In winter, an unshelled driveway is a telltale sign your house is empty. Again, hire a service or have a friend help to keep it clear.



**Enhancing your home does not have to be expensive!
Just keep in mind that the better lit, lived-in and lively
you make your property, the better. You have to present
a "Hardened and difficult" image to the burglar.**