

Home Security and Burglary Prevention

Identify Entry Points

Before you make security improvements, identify those entry points most likely to be used by a burglar. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Which entrances are hidden/out of view from your neighbors?
- If you were locked out of your house, where could you get in without too much difficulty? Secure every door/window you list in response to these questions.

Basic Security Improvements

Other security improvements should follow, keeping in mind that your goal is to make it difficult for a burglar by forcing them to take more time and to make more noise!

- Exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand force.
- All exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- All strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction.
- All exterior doors should fit snugly against the frame and all frames should be free of warping, cracks, and other signs of wear and tear.
- Solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors, reinforced door jams or jam braces.
- Three-inch screws, heavy-duty strike plates and tamper-proof hinges.
- The main entrance door should have a doorwide-angle (180 degree)viewer/peephole.
- Sliding glass doors and windows should be secure against forcing the locks or from being lifted completely out of the frame.
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded, latched, etc.) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion.
- Double-hung windows should be secured with pins or extra locks to discourage prying.
- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to allow visibility along the perimeter (particularly entries) of the house.
- Timers (both interior and exterior) should be installed to activate lights in your absence
- All entrances (doors and windows) to your home should be well lit at night.
- Your address should be posted on your house and be clearly visible from the street both night and day.