

**Burglary Prevention Tips**

* Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
* Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
* Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
* Keep your garage door closed and locked.
* Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
* Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
* Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
* Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
* Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

**Don't Tempt a Thief:**

* Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight
* Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
* Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
* Never leave notes on your door such as “Gone shopping.”

**Targeting the Outside:**

* Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
* Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.

**Alarms:**

* An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
* Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.
* **If you have a home alarm system, use it!** *Activate your alarm system* — Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.
* Many individuals have alarm systems but do not arm them because it is inconvenient. Many burglars know this and will not be deterred by a window sticker or sign indicating that the home has an alarm system.

**If Your Home Is Broken Into:**

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

* Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
* Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
* Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
* Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
* Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

**Other precautions you should take:**

* Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other “secret” hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
* Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home — this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
* Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
* Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call the police.

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