

Home Security



On a national average, each year about 1 out of every 12 homes will be targeted by a burglar. Luck has little to do with these odds – burglars look for homes that offer easy entrance and getaway.

You may not need physical strength, speed, or expensive security devices for protection, but you do need to be alert, cautious, and self-confident.

60% of residential burglaries take place during the daytime. Most take place in July and August.

Windows

- Pin locks are available for double-hung windows as well as sliding glass doors. They can be installed on the side sashes as well as the center sash to allow windows to be opened a few inches and still be secure.
- Special locks for basement type windows are available in hardware stores.
- If your windows or fire escapes are equipped with grates or bars, make sure they meet fire department regulations and are easy to remove.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed at night.

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Security Tips

- 1 **If you plan to be away, make it appear as if someone is home.** Have your house watched, pets cared for, mail or newspaper held or picked up, lawn mowed, lights, radio, or the TV on timers.
- 2 **Keep landscaping open and short enough to offer no hiding places.** Choose thorny plants and shrubs that will not get taller than the windows to keep out prowlers.
- 3 **Install outdoor lighting to shine on key areas.** Leave them on at night. Motion-activated lights are highly effective for large areas which you may not wish to keep constantly illuminated.
- 4 **Make sure that all entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas are well-lit.** Check for and replace dim or burned out bulbs.
- 5 **Do not leave notes about where you are and when you will return.**
- 6 **Have an up-to-date household inventory list** and make sure your valuables are engraved with identification.
- 7 **Check to make sure fire stairs have an emergency exit at ground level** and that they are not accessible from the outside.

Doors

- ✓ **Outside entry doors should be metal, metal-clad, or solid wood, not hollow core.** They should fit tightly in their frames.
- ✓ **Keep all doors locked** including those in the basement and garage.
- ✓ **Double cylinder deadbolts** (requiring a key for opening from the inside) are most secure, but can be dangerous in a fire emergency and are prohibited in some communities.
- ✓ **Never attach an ID tag to your keychain.**
- ✓ **If you lose your key or move, install new locks right away.**
- ✓ **Doors with glass windows less than 40" from the lock can easily be opened** by breaking the glass and reaching inside. Replace the glass so it is unbreakable, or replace the door.
- ✓ **Install a lens peephole or wide-angle viewer in all outside doors,** not just the front entry.
- ✓ **Never let anyone at the door know you are home alone.**
- ✓ **Ask for photo identification from service/delivery people.** If you aren't sure they are who they say or if you didn't arrange the visit, call the company to verify.
- ✓ **Use metal "charlie bars" for sliding glass doors,** plus pin locks that slide a steel peg through both the stationary and movable doors.
- ✓ **Chain locks are not security devices!** Do not depend on them. They can be forced open.

