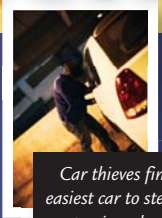


This Season, DON'T BECOME ANOTHER STATISTIC... GET YOUR HOME SECURE

The most common threat to your home is burglary. According to the FBI, a house, apartment or condominium is burglarized once every 15 seconds. There were more than 2 million burglaries last year; victim losses averaged more than \$2,000 each, and only 8 percent of thieves were caught.

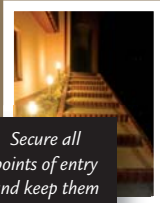
Fortunately, burglars will often move on if they see you have taken preemptive measures.



Car thieves find the easiest car to steal. Use a steering wheel club, or install an alarm.

Lighten Up

The winter months allow thieves to use the shield of darkness to their advantage because it is darker for a longer period of time. To counteract



Secure all points of entry and keep them well lit.

this, install motion sensor floodlights by your entryways, porches, gates and side yards. Install these lights at least 8 feet above ground so they are difficult to disable, and check often for bulbs that may have burned out.

Create the Illusion That You're Home

If you plan to go away for the holidays, or even if you come home late from work regularly, use timers to turn on lamps, television sets, radios or holiday lights while you are out. Many timers even allow you to vary the times they turn on to further fool burglars. Remove signs of vacancy—put mail and newspaper deliveries on hold and ask neighbors to remove fliers left at the front door. If you are out of town, park your car or have a neighbor park in your driveway, if possible. An empty driveway may be an easy invitation to a thief that is familiar with your routine.

Small valuables are a thief's favorite target.

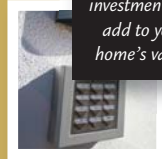


Man's best friend is still an intruder's worst nightmare.

Eliminate Easy Entry

Thirty-two percent of burglaries occur without using force to enter the home. Always lock your doors, no matter how soon you plan to return. Sliding doors and windows are easy fixes. Close the door or window and measure the length of the exposed sliding track. Cut a piece of wood (e.g., 1" x 1/2" or a dowel) a half-inch shorter than the sliding track, or 2" shorter to lock a window partially open for ventilation. When you close up, lock the door or window, then place the wood in the slide track to prevent opening. Small, inexpensive track locks accomplish the same thing. Security screen doors can prevent thieves from accessing your entry doors and can be painted to blend with your home.

Electronic security systems are a great investment and add to your home's value.



Keep Records of Your Belongings

In case of theft, your homeowner's insurance may be of little value if you cannot substantiate your loss. Take photos of your valuable possessions (especially jewelry and electronics), write down serial numbers and keep receipts in case you need to file an insurance claim. Keep important documents in a home safe and give copies to your relatives to keep in case the originals are lost. There are also companies that perform a "home inventory" service.

Home Security Checklist

- ✓ Light porches, walkways and dark areas around your home.
- ✓ Keep bushes and shrubbery trimmed.
- ✓ Check all windows for working locks and deadbolt all doors.
- ✓ Use heavy drapes, shutters and blinds in rooms with desirable contents.
- ✓ Get a dog (many benefits).
- ✓ Organize a neighborhood watch group.
- ✓ Turn a radio on when you leave your home.
- ✓ Secure all entry gates, garages and sheds.
- ✓ Don't leave objects in your yard that could assist an intruder.



Keep dense landscaping away from your home's entry points. Secure your rear yard from easy access.



QUICK & EASY CRIME DETERRENENTS

WHEN YOU ARE HOME...

EXTERIOR LIGHTING



Using bright lighting outside your home entrances will prevent most criminals from attempting to enter. Motion sensors along your side yards will startle any trespassers and will also alert you by grabbing your attention.

PANIC BUTTON



If your car has a car alarm, keep your keys handy. Triggering your car's panic button is a great way to frighten off someone who is lurking on your property or attempting a break-in.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



These meetings are a valuable way to share information and spread the word of recurring incidents. Members are also likely to be more aware of warning signs that can help prevent crimes. It's also a good way to meet your neighbors.

SECURITY SYSTEMS



Home monitoring devices can help alert authorities of break-ins and allow response teams to be dispatched quickly. If you cannot afford a security system, placing a company's security sign in your yard can be an effective alternative.

DOG



Canines remain one of the most effective ways to prevent crime. Even smaller dogs can be a great way to scare off criminals by barking and alerting you of trouble. If you don't have a dog, simply posting a warning sign or leaving a dog bowl at your doorstep can work.

WHEN YOU ARE AWAY...

SHORT TERM

- Leave a radio or TV on.
- Have a neighbor park in your driveway.
- Give a key to a trusted neighbor or relative, and refrain from leaving it under the mat.
- Leave lights on for the evening.
- Don't leave jewelry or money lying out in view from a window.
- Have neighbors pick up your mail and newspaper.

LONG TERM

- Use timers on lights, TVs and stereos at random times.
- Hire house-sitters to watch your home.
- Ask neighbors to remove flyers and packages.
- Turn your phone's ringer to low so a burglar will not be alerted of your absence.
- Arrange for yard care.
- Stop incoming mail and newspapers.

ONLINE RESOURCES

National Crime Prevention Council
www.ncpc.org
As the official home page for the Neighborhood Watch Program, the NCPC provides training and guidelines for establishing your own Neighborhood Watch chapter.

National Neighborhood Watch Institute
www.nnwi.org
This site is another online resource that includes information on Neighborhood Watch and offers popular crime deterring signs for homes and communities.