



Tips on **Home SECURITY**



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Tips on **Home SECURITY**



Look at your home through a burglar's eyes



Look at your home through a burglar's eyes.

How would you get in if you have forgotten your keys? If you can, so can a burglar.

Illuminate or eliminate all areas around your house

where an intruder can hide to gain access. Consider installing motion-detection lighting around your home, especially near entry points.

Do not allow strangers on your premises without properly identifying the person.

All exterior doors should be solid and made from materials such as fiberglass, solid wood or solid wood core (a layer of veneer over solid wood).

For maximum security, **all doors should be windowless.**

Avoid placing windows close to the door so that a burglar could break the window and unlock the door from the inside.

Install deadbolt locks. With the exception of sliding doors, all exterior doors should have a deadbolt lock in addition to the lock built into the doorknob. The deadbolt should be high quality (grade 1 or 2, solid metal with no exposed screws on the exterior), with a throw bolt (the

bolt that comes out of the door) at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) long. The lock should be properly installed.

Install a dead-lock. Adding an additional lock will provide extra security when you are home. The dead-lock, sometimes called an 'exit-only deadbolt' is a deadbolt that does not have an external key. It may be clearly visible on the door from the outside, but it cannot be broken into without destroying the door, frame, or lock itself. While this security won't help directly when you aren't home, its visibility may discourage an intruder from trying the door.

Install cylinder guards around the lock cylinders (the part where you insert the key). Burglars can sometimes remove or damage lock cylinders by hammering, wrenching, or prying. Protect these with metal guard plates or protective rings on both sides of the door. Install guard plates with round-head carriage bolts to prevent them from being unscrewed.

Secure exposed hinges. Hinges should be on the inside of the door. If yours are not, rehang the door or secure the exposed hinges with non-removable pins. You can do this by removing at least the two center screws of the



hinge (on each side) and replacing them with non-removable hinge pins (you can get these at the hardware store) or double-headed masonry nails. Even hinges that are not exposed should be secured to the frame with 3-inch screws.

If you do have sliding glass doors, glass door panels or nearby windows, cover the glass with a security grate or grille on the outside or a clear, unbreakable polycarbonate panel secured behind the glass on the inside.

Doors and their hardware need maintenance from time to time, and poorly maintained doors make it easier for a thief to enter your house. In particular, make sure the tracks for sliding doors are in good repair and that the door stays in the track.

Secure fence gates every time you walk through.

Avoid leaving ladders or scaffolding lying around the house after completing repair jobs.

Ensure that all tools, axes, spades, picks and other items that can be used as a weapon are secured after use.

Thick shrubs and tall fencing may be great landscaping for privacy, however **obscuring your house from the street can invite burglars.** Maintain privacy without being hidden. Keep shrubs, trees and hedges around your house low.

Record the serial numbers of all appliances and electronic devices. Where possible, photograph your possessions and keep the photos in a safe place. In the event that these items are stolen, photos may be helpful for use in the recovery.

Scare with sound. Lay gravel or stones in beds and paths below windows so you will be able to hear a would-be burglar's footsteps loud and clear.

Keep car keys next to your bed while you sleep. In the event you hear a suspicious noise and suspect that someone is trying to break in, press the Panic button on your key ring. The car alarm will sound, and this may scare off the burglar

Add a security camera. Even 1 or 2 economical cameras can deter would- be thieves.

