

Residential Security Tips

Use this list for ideas to make your home more secure.

External Doors

- Is the door itself metal or solid wood?
- Are the hinges protected from removal from the outside?
- Are the door locks adequate and in good repair?
- Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed?
- If there are no windows in the door, is there a wide angle viewer or voice intercommunications device?
- Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at the doorway?
- Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?
- Is there a door from the outside to the basement?
- Is the garage door kept locked at all times?
- Are glass sliding doors pinned to prevent being forced opened? Is the upper track secured with large pan head screws to prevent lifting?
- Are French or double doors fitted with flush bolts at the top and bottom edge of the inactive or secondary door?

Windows

- Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks?
- Are ground floor windows properly locked or blocked?
- Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs?
- Is shrubbery trimmed away from the outside of the windows to prohibit concealment of an intruder?

Outdoor lighting

- Is the exterior or front entrance lit with at least a 40 watt bulb?
- Do you have security lighting operated by an electric eye or time, every night, all night, giving your home a perimeter of light around it?

Landscaping

- Can front entrances be observed from the street or public areas?
- Does the porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from a street or public area?
- Are your shrubs and trees trimmed to “open up the line of sight” of your home for your neighbors from several directions?
- Are tools and ladders kept in the garage at all times?

From the Curb

- Are your house numbers visible from the street for emergency services such as police, fire, and ambulance?
- Does the overall appearance of your home give criminals information about you and your family that would assist them in victimizing you? Things such as a full mailbox, outdoor lighting left on during the day, or the garage doors open with no cars present?
- Are all fence gates padlocked to make it more difficult for strangers to enter your yard?