

## **Burglary Prevention**

Physical security constitutes 90 percent of burglary prevention. If your home is locked and unauthorized entry is made difficult, time consuming, and conspicuous, chances of a successful burglary are minimized.

- Locks on all outside entrances should be double-cylinder deadbolts with movable collars.
- Door jams must be solid. Exposed hinges should be pinned to prevent removal.
- Windows should have secure locks and should stay locked.
- Lights must provide optimum visibility inside and out, with vandal-proof covers over the outside lights and power source.
- The perimeter must be well-lit, especially around all entry points.
- Alarm systems should be supplied by a licensed alarm company with a central monitoring station.
- Engrave markings on enticing objects.
- Keep accurate records of serial numbers on all items to help in recovery.

## **Home Security Tips**

Often, an intruder will be deterred from entering your home if you make it a noisy, difficult, time-consuming, and highly visible task.

- When away, try to make your home look as if it is occupied. Leave lights and a radio on.
- Have a friend or neighbor get your mail and newspaper, or cut the grass if needed.
- Be creative when hiding your valuables; burglars often go straight to the bedroom to look under mattresses, in bedside stands, and in closets for money and jewelry.
- Be a nosy neighbor by reporting any suspicious activity.

When thinking about protecting your home and property, ask yourself these questions:

“What do I have that is worth stealing?”

“How much protection do I really need?”

“How much protection do I have right now?”

“What can I do to protect my family and property?”

Have identifying markers on personal property such as a drivers' license number

Keep an inventory of your property with the serial number, price, picture, and note any other unique marks. In addition to taking a picture think about using a video camera to record all of the items inside the house.

Make sure the marking cannot be easily dismantled, removed, or tampered. Use an Engraver. Also make sure the marking is in a inconspicuous place.

Sample Inventory Form:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Value</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

“Trim back all shrubs around door and windows of your house. Do not provide sheltered areas for muggers or burglars to hide.”

“Cut tree limbs if they provide access to second story windows, porches or roof areas providing entry to windows or access to porches. Also, remove trellises and sturdy vines if they will provide an easy way to reach the second floor.”

Shrubs should be 18 to 24 inches away from all entry points.  
Hedges should be cut 6 inches below the level of all windows.

Trees and shrubs should be trimmed from the bottom up.

Hedges should be separated to reduce the ability of a person to effectively hide behind them.

“You should consider renting a safe deposit box for your jewelry, valuable collections, deeds and other items you can not afford to lose, have accidentally destroyed or stolen. Safe deposit boxes are especially worthwhile for those items the loss of which would be catastrophic.”

If you keep a safe in the house make sure the safe is secured to something so that it can not be easily removed.