



Make Your Home a Safer Place

We all feel our home is completely safe from any harm but there are things you don't think about that could improve the security of your home. Here are some ideas for different areas in your home.

Doors:

- Install good quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and any doors from attached garages.
- All exterior doors should be metal or solid wood, and have strong door hinges on the inside of the door with hidden or non-removable pins.
- Door areas should well lit, and doors should have a wide-angle viewer so that you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Properly install doorframes on all exterior doors and doors from attached garages so they cannot be spread apart.

Install security-type door strikes on all exterior doors.

Locks:

- Install strong, reliable deadbolt locks that extend at least one inch when in the locked position. Consider double cylinder deadbolts (keyed inside and outside) or deadbolts with reinforced strike plates and extra long mounting screws to anchor the lock.

Windows:

- Window locks or bars may be used to increase security, especially on all windows that are accessible from the ground. Use window coverings such as curtains or mini-blinds to decrease visibility into your home.

Lighting:

- Use automatic timers all of the time, not just when you are away.
- Utilize specialty lighting in high security areas.
- Install around doors, porches, windows, garage and all points of entry.
- Consider motion detectors.
- Illuminate house and grounds.

Increase visibility and eliminate hiding places.

Appearance

- Direct visitors by means of fences, walkways and shrubs.
- Plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult
- Trim shrubs and trees that could conceal criminals.
- Cut back tree limbs that might allow thieves to climb into windows. Use landscaping to provide maximum visibility to and from the house.

Garages:

- Always lock the house door from an attached garage.
- When at home, always park your cars in the garage with the garage door shut. Install automatic openers that will allow you to stay in your car until safely parked in the garage.

General:

- Make a list of your property (brand, model, serial number, description, etc.)
- Lock up your tools and your shed.
- When you're not at home, make it look as though somebody's there.
- Avoid advertising your expensive purchases.
- Don't let burglars use your spare key!