

**Public
Advisory**
0112

MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE

Burglary Prevention Checklist

**“MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE:
Burglary Prevention Checklist”**
offers general tips and suggestions.

In an emergency, dial 911.



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Burglary is a major crime. It is a significant threat to all homeowners. Statistics show that most burglaries occur in single home residences, but multi-family dwellings such as condominiums and apartment buildings are also at risk.

Having a burglar alarm is a good deterrent but it is not enough. You can reduce the risk of being the victim of a burglary by using the “Burglary Prevention Checklist” inside.



Burglary Prevention Checklist

Secure the *outside* of your home.

- Lock doors and windows when leaving the house.
- Lock rear gates when not in use.
- Do not let people know you are not home by posting on the Internet or on voicemail.
- Prune overgrown shrubbery that hides windows and doors.
- Make alarm stickers visible on doors and windows; they should be easily seen from the street and sidewalk.
- Keep a car in the driveway, if possible.
- Give the appearance that you own a guard dog. Place a big dog bowl or dog chain on your property.
- Do not leave packages in the doorway all day; arrange for a delivery time when you or a neighbor can pick them up.
- Do not leave garbage cans at the curb all day; if you cannot stay home, use plastic bags instead of garbage cans.

Help prevent your home from becoming a target. Walk around your home and do a thorough security inspection.

Burglary Prevention Checklist *(cont'd)*

Secure *points of entry* into your home.

- If possible, do not use an outside mailbox. Insert a mail slot in the front door or garage.
- Install outside motion detection lights at the corners of your home. Make sure they are high enough so that an intruder is unable to unscrew the bulbs.
- Do not have a front door with side glass panels. It is easy for an intruder to break the glass, reach inside and unlock the door.
- Have outside doors of solid core or metal clad; steel doors and frames are the most secure while hollow doors with wood frames are easily kicked in.
- Use dead bolts with a one-inch throw since the mechanism is difficult to pry or jimmy open.
- Ensure that sliding glass doors and windows have metal pins or a metal bar installed so that they can not be pried open.
- Set inside lights on timers to turn on at dusk.
- Do not place valuables in bureau drawers in the master bedroom. This is the first place a burglar looks. Lock valuables in the attic or basement.
- Mark valuables with your driver's license number to make them easy to trace. Take pictures of them.
- Even if you have an alarm system, be alert when entering or leaving your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, call 911 immediately.