

**Public  
Advisory**  
0112

# MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE

## Burglary Prevention Checklist

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.



**M**ost burglaries are crimes of opportunity.  
Here's how to help make your home safer.

**Burglars look for homes that have:**

- No lights on and are dark at sunset.
- No car in the driveway.
- Doors and windows blocked by shrubs, trees...
- Mail sticking out of the mailbox.
- Curtains closed during the day.
- Papers on the front lawn or stoop.
- Outside alarm siren boxes.
- The appearance of being unoccupied.

**“Target Harden” your home:**

- Walk around your home and make a list of easy points of entry for an intruder.
- Take care of the problems you have listed.



## 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.

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**H**elp prevent your home from becoming a target. Walk around your home and do a thorough security inspection.

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## 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.

