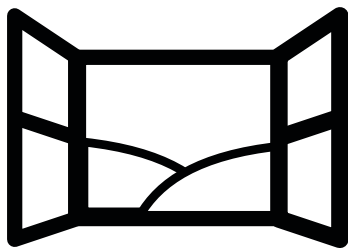


The Numbers Behind the Crime



- **In the United States, there are over 2,000,000 home burglaries every year.**
- **Many burglars are able to enter homes through unsecured windows or doors.**

- **Burglars usually spend 60 seconds trying to break into a home.**
- **Burglars spend an average of 8 to 12 minutes inside a home.**
- **Jewelry, electronics, and cash are the most targeted items during a burglary.**
- **Victims of home burglaries report an average of \$2,000 in losses.**
- **Police recover only about 15% of stolen property.**
- **Most burglaries happen during the daytime.**
- **July and August have the highest percentage of burglaries.**
- **Homes without security systems are 2 to 3 times more likely to be broken into.**



Protect Your Neighborhood

Join a local crime-fighting organization, such as Neighborhood or Apartment Watch. These are effective crime prevention programs that enable you to take an active role in the safety of your neighborhood. Organizing a crime watch program builds trust and a sense of community among neighbors. Reliable neighbors can be effective in helping to ensure your home's security.

- Look out for your neighbors as you expect them to look out for you.
- Report suspicious activities to the police immediately.
- Work with others in your community to eliminate things that may contribute to crime, like overgrown vacant lots or abandoned cars.



Resources

National Crime Prevention Council:

www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety

>INFOCUS

HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST



GET YOUR LIFE >INFOCUS

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Use this checklist of simple and affordable security measures to protect your home and your family from crime.



Secure Doors and Windows

- ☐ All exterior doors are constructed of metal or solid core wood and are secured with deadbolt locks.
- ☐ Exterior doors, windows, and the garage door are locked at all times.
- ☐ Hinges and door frames are sturdy, with less than one-eighth of an inch between the door and the frame.
- ☐ All double-hung windows are secured with removable pins.
- ☐ Sliding glass doors have strong key locks and are secured with removable pins or with a bar placed inside the track.
- ☐ Glass panels in and near doors are reinforced so they cannot be shattered.
- ☐ Exterior doors have wide-angle peepholes at heights that everyone can use.

Lighting and Landscaping

- ☐ Good lighting is provided near each entry point, including back and side doors and windows.
- ☐ Yards, porches, and patios are well lit.
- ☐ All greenery is trimmed below the bottom ledge of windows and away from doorways.
- ☐ Tree limbs and trellises are kept away from second floor windows where burglars might use them to climb inside.
- ☐ House numbers are well lit and clearly visible from the street to help authorities find your home during a burglary or other emergency.
- ☐ Exterior lights are on in the evening and are equipped with photocell or motion sensitive devices

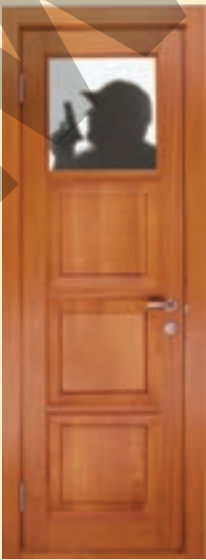


Plan Security for Vacations

- ☐ Arrangements are made for a trusted friend or neighbor to watch for intruders, pick up mail, etc.
- ☐ Voice mail does not identify that you are on vacation or away from your home.
- ☐ Timers are set to turn lights and a radio or TV on and off.
- ☐ Car is left in the driveway to provide the illusion of occupancy.
- ☐ Vacation address and telephone number are given to a trusted neighbor in case of emergency.
- ☐ Alarm system is armed.
- ☐ Spare keys are given to a trusted neighbor, not left under a doormat, planter, or in the mailbox.

Beware of Strangers

- ☐ Household members know to withhold information such as their name and address from strangers.
- ☐ Visitors are always identified through a peephole or window, even if their voice sounds familiar.
- ☐ Strangers who need help are asked to wait outside as household members make phone calls for them.
- ☐ Unscheduled visits from repairmen or utility workers are verified with a call to their company.
- ☐ Household members know not to post personal information, like their address, online.
- ☐ Babysitters and latchkey kids have of list of people who are safe to let in.



Personal Property

- ☐ Valuable items are inscribed with an identifying number approved by local police.
- ☐ An inventory of valuable possessions is up to date and includes pictures. This information is stored in a safe location or through a secure, online storage website.
- ☐ Shed doors and gate latches are locked after every use with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- ☐ Outdoor valuables like grills and lawnmowers are stored in a locked garage or shed. If they are kept outside, they are hidden from view and locked to a stationary point.
- ☐ Bicycles are secured with U-bar locks or high quality padlocks and chains at all times, even when left for a short period of time