

# RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION



Burglary victims often feel vulnerable and violated as their personal space has been invaded. Residential burglaries statistically occur during the **day** while families are at work or school. Lately, they occur in the evenings when families head **out of the home**. The most common entry technique is a hard kick to the door, forcing the wooden jamb to give way or to smash a glass door. Household tools, like hammers, screwdrivers, pry bars and pliers may be used to gain entry into your home. While residential burglaries seem random in nature, there is a simple selection process. Unoccupied homes with easy or concealed access and quick escape routes are targeted. Research shows that if it

takes more than four or five minutes to break into your home, most burglars will go elsewhere. Once inside, burglars look for small expensive items that are easily traded for cash. Favorite items include cash, jewelry, laptops, game consoles, guns and small electronic devices.

Protect yourself and make your home a less likely target with the following ideas:

## WAYS TO DISCOURAGE BURGLARS:

### Bright Ideas:

- Install lights by all exterior doors. Use lights at night.
- Install outside light fixtures where bulbs are hard to reach.
- Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency services response
- Trim shrubs back from doors and windows. Don't give burglars a place to hide.

### Vehicle Smarts:

- Close the garage door and cover windows so no one can see inside.
- Hide the garage door opener from open view in your car.
- *Doors and Windows:*
  - Change the locks when moving into a new residence.
  - Always lock your doors and windows.
  - Give your neighbor a spare key – Don't hide it outside.
  - Use solid core or metal exterior doors
  - Use dead bolt door locks on exterior doors and double-cylinder.
  - Add auxiliary track-type locks, removable drop bars.
  - Wooden dowels, or pinning devices to windows and sliding glass doors.
  - Install peepholes on doors with 160 degree views.

### Landscaping:

- Use motion sensors and photocells on exterior floodlights.
- Prune shrubs to under 3 feet from ground.

### Personal Information:

- Use a locking mailbox.
- Keep Valuables in a safe deposit box.

### Dealing with Strangers:

- NEVER let strangers into your home.
- Verify workers by ID cards and calling employer.
- Never give keys to workers.
- Never leave notes for anyone on your door.

### While On Vacation:

- Hire a House Sitter
- Ask friend/neighbor to help with trash bins, newspapers & mail.
- Install a UL approved and monitored residential alarm system.
- Park a car in your driveway.
- Use timers on indoor lights to give impression you are home.
- Ask neighbors to keep an eye on house.

### Help The Police Get To Your Home:

- Make sure your street address is clearly visible from street.