



HOME SECURITY TIPS



TF-3336 (Jul 10)

Most residential burglaries occur during the day, when most people are at work. If a burglar knocks on the front door and no one answers, he checks the back door and looks for open windows. If he decides that no one is home then he assesses which way is easiest to get in. *You can prevent that.*

This checklist is in priority order and helps indicate the security of your home. Every 'no' checked shows a weak point that may help a burglar gain access. To improve your security, attempt to eliminate the boxes checked 'no.' Using these guidelines will not make your home burglar proof, but it will improve your protection.

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE (Burglars typically enter through side or rear doors)		YES	NO
1. Is the door itself made of metal or solid wood construction?			
2. Is the door-frame strong enough and tight enough to prevent entry?			
3. Are door hinges on the inside?			
4. If there are windows in the door, are they shatter-resistant?			
5. Are windows more than 40 inches from door locks?			
6. Is the door secured by a deadbolt lock that is at least 1-inch long?			
7. Is the strike plate adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?			
8. Is the locking mechanism prevented from being reached from a mail slot or pet entrance?			
9. Is the doorway visible from the street and/or neighbor's view?			
10. Does the doorway have a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?			
11. If the door is a sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track?			
12. Is a "charley-bar" or key-operated lock or dowel used on sliding glass door?			
ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT			
13. Are all doors to the living quarters from garage or basement metal or solid wood construction?			
14. Is the garage door equipped with an adequate lock, and kept locked at all times?			
15. Does the door from the garage to the living quarters have an adequate lock?			
16. Does the door from the basement to the living quarters have an adequate lock?			
GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS (Burglars also like to go through windows)			
			
17. Do all of the windows have adequate locks in operating condition?			
18. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?			
19. Are exterior windows free from concealing structures or landscaping?			
UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS (Burglars like these windows, too, so put ladders away)			
			
20. Are ladders kept inside?			
21. Are the upper floor windows away from porch/garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings?			
22. Do all of the windows have adequate locks in operating condition?			
23. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?			
24. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows?			
BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS			
25. Are the doors to the basement internal doors?			
26. If the basement door is external, is it visible from the street and/or neighbor's view?			
27. If the door is external, does it have adequate locks?			
28. Are all basement windows adequately secured?			

GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS	YES	NO
29. Is the automobile entrance to the garage equipped with an adequate locking device?		
30. Are all internal and external doors to the garage kept closed and locked at all times?		
31. Are garage windows adequately secured?		
32. Is the outside utility entrance to the garage adequately secured?		
33. Are tools, ladders, and other equipment kept in the garage?		
FRONT ENTRANCE		
34. Is the front door made of metal or solid wood construction?		
35. Is the doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent entry?		
36. Are the door hinges on the inside?		
37. Is the door secured by a deadbolt lock that is at least 1-inch long?		
38. Is the strike plate adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?		
39. Is there a window in the door? Note: The window should not allow visibility of interior from the outside.		
40. If there are windows in the door, are they shatter-resistant?		
41. If there is no window in the door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device?		
42. Is the locking mechanism prevented from being reached from a mail slot or pet entrance?		
43. Are front-facing windows more than 40 inches from door locks?		
44. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?		
45. Can the front entrance be seen from the street?		
MAINTENANCE		
46. Are garbage and recycling bins taken in immediately after pickup?		
47. Are newspapers and mail picked up every day?		
48. Is the structure painted and in a condition of good repair?		
49. Is the landscaping kept trimmed? (e.g. bushes/shrubs have a 3-foot clearance above the ground; tree canopies have a 6-foot clearance from the ground)		
50. Are old automobiles, boats, trailers, or other vehicles stored away from your front yard?		
51. Is graffiti removed immediately every time it occurs?		
52. Are all doors locked when you are away from home?		
53. Are all windows locked when you are away from home, including on warm days.		
54. Are valuable items (jewelry, laptop, iPod, etc.) shielded from being visible through open curtains or blinds?		
55. Do windows on all sides of the building provide full visibility of the property?		
ADDRESSES		
56. Is the mailbox clearly marked with the street address? (It should be as close as possible to the front of the house and visible from the house.)		
57. Is the street address clearly visible from the street with numbers a minimum of 5 inches high that are made of a reflective material?		
BUILDING LIGHTING		
58. Are the numbers of the street address clearly lighted at night?		
59. Are the side and rear entrances lighted with at least a 40-watt light (regular or motion-sensor)?		
60. Are the garage and basement entrances lighted with at least a 40-watt light (regular or motion-sensor)?		
61. Are the front entrances lighted with at least a 40-watt light?		
62. Are the porch lights under the control of the building owner or manager (not the tenant)?		
63. Does the exterior lighting illuminate corners as well as walls?		
64. Does the exterior lighting provide a cone of light downward to walkways, preferably from the side?		
65. Does the exterior lighting between buildings help distinguish forms and movement?		
OTHER		
66. Are the front-facing balcony railings, fences, or walls visually transparent and lower than 36 inches?		
67. If higher, are they made of strong, high quality, wrought-iron picket-type fencing with pointed tips, and low landscaping in front? A Planning Permit is required for fences higher than 36 inches.		
68. Is the parking area visible from either the front or back door and at least one window?		
69. Are all areas of the yard well lit so that oncoming persons can be clearly seen?		