

Home Security Checklist

This checklist was designed to assist you in conducting a security survey of your own home. The purpose of the survey is to identify security weaknesses of your home and daily routines around your home. These are things that make your home look inviting to the criminal. It should begin at the curb and end with the interior of the home. It should include house numbers, landscaping, doors, locks, strike plates, windows, indoor-outdoor lighting and its use, the garage, and driveways.



From the Curb

- ◆ Are your house numbers visible from the street for emergency service such as police, fire, and ambulance?
- ◆ Does the overall appearance of your home give criminals information about you and your family that would assist them in victimizing you--things such as a full mailbox, outdoor lighting on during the day, or the garage doors open with no cars present?
- ◆ Are all fence gates padlocked to make it more difficult for strangers to enter your yard?

Landscaping

- ◆ Are your shrubs and trees trimmed to "open up the line of sight" of your home for your neighbors from several directions?
- ◆ Are shrubs and trees trimmed to prohibit concealment of an intruder?

Outdoor Lighting

- ◆ Do you have only decorative lighting such as used in flowerbeds?
- ◆ Do you have only entrance/exit lighting such as front/rear door type lights?
- ◆ Do you have security lighting operated by an electric eye or timer, every night, all night, giving your home a perimeter of light around it?

External Doors

- ◆ Are all external doors either metal, solid wood, solid wood frame, or at least solid core construction?
- ◆ Are doorframes strong and tight enough to withstand some degree of force?
- ◆ Are doors with outside exposed hinges pinned to prevent easy removal from outside?
- ◆ Are all external doors equipped with "good" dead bolt locks, which have at least a one-inch throw?
- ◆ Are the strike plates installed with three-to-four inch screws, which are anchored well into the two-by-four inch stud behind the doorframe?
- ◆ Are glass sliding doors pinned to prevent being forced open? Is the upper track secured with large pan head screws to prevent lifting?
- ◆ Are French or double doors fitted with flush bolts at the top and bottom edge of the inactive or secondary door?
- ◆ Is there a door leading from the garage to the interior of the home, and if so, is it equally secure as an external door?

Windows

- ◆ Are wooden windows "pinned" on both sides, from the inside?
- ◆ Are aluminum windows fitted with secondary locking devices, easily removed, in case of fire?
- ◆ Is shrubbery trimmed away from the outside of the windows to prohibit concealment of an intruder?

Alarms offer additional security, but should never be substituted for good locks. When considering an alarm, you should have several companies appraise your needs. Insist on a written proposal and a copy of the contract you will need to sign. Before signing, check the company's reputation through the Better Business Bureau. Employees of the police department are prohibited from making any recommendations for any specific alarm company.