

Tips on Home Security

Light the outside of your home to make it more visible to your neighbors. Outside motion detector lights are a great idea.

Trim bushes near doors to reduce hiding places for burglars.

Lock your doors. Many burglars are opportunistic, and are simply looking for an open/unlocked door. It only takes a couple minutes for a burglar to enter through an unlocked door and take your valuables.

Install dead-bolt locks on all outside doors. Make sure you can unlock all doors from the inside without a key to allow a quick escape from a fire.

Install peepholes in all outside doors.

Don't keep expensive jewelry, collectibles, or large amounts of cash in plain site in your home.

Keep a list of your valuables and their serial numbers. A videotape, photograph, or sales receipts will help for documentation.

Install locks on windows. All sliding doors should have "ventilation locks". Screens and storms should be latched on the inside. Include locks on garage and basement windows.

Don't advertise your absence. Never leave a message on your answering machine that says you are away for a few days or on vacation. Before you leave, set timers so that lights, TVs, and radios go on and off. Have someone pick up the mail and newspapers, set out trash, mow the lawn or shovel snow.

Close your garage door. An empty garage says you're not at home. Thieves can easily steal bikes, lawnmowers, snow blowers and other valuables. Burglars can close the garage door and take their time burglarizing your home.

Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight. Don't store the title for your car in the glove compartment.