

Residential Burglary Prevention

Residential burglaries primarily occur during the day when people are at work or school. Burglars target unoccupied homes with easy or concealed access and quick escape routes. They look for small expensive items that can easily be traded for cash – jewelry, electronics, guns and even prescription medication and personal identifying information.



Target Hardening Strategies

Lighting

- Install lights by all exterior doors. Keep lights on all night – consider dusk to dawn sensors.
- Install motion sensor lighting for the sides of the home, where people should not be after dark (solar options are available).
- Ensure house numbers are illuminated.

Alarms & Cameras

- Good crime deterrent, as 60 percent of most burglars will choose another target if they find alarms or cameras, according to a study from the University of North Carolina's Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology.

Doors & Windows

- Change the locks when moving into a new home.
- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Ensure exterior doors and the door leading from the garage to the home are solid core or metal construction.
- **Install four screw strike plates with three inch screws to penetrate the door frame.**
- Use dead bolt locks on exterior doors and the door leading from the garage to the home.
- Install supplementary locks (track locks, pin locks or dowels) on sliding windows and sliding glass doors.
- Install eye-viewers on all exterior doors.

Landscaping

- Trim trees to a canopy of six feet.
- Prune hedges to three feet.
- Ensure landscaping is trimmed away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places.
- Ensure landscaping does not block or obscure lighting.

Tips

- Secure valuables such as jewelry and firearms in a safe.
- Secure documents with personally identifying information – passports, social security cards, birth certificates – in a safe or safe deposit box.
- Never allow strangers in your home.
- Verify workers by ID cards and calling employers.
- Never give keys to workers.
- Never hide a key outside.
- Consider hiring a house sitter while you are away.
- Ask neighbors to assist with trash and recycling bins and newspapers.
- Use timers on lights to give the impression you are home.