



SECURITY CHECKLIST FOR YOUR HOME

Print this sheet and consider the following questions to determine how safe your home actually is. When you are finished, you'll have a clear indication of what is missing and how you can improve the safety of your property.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO RIGHT AWAY

Spare keys should not be placed under a doormat or planter, or in the mailbox.

Good Issue

Solution: Choose an area of your garden and dig a hole about 6-12 inches deep. Place a set of keys in a container and bury it. Make sure you remember where it is though.

The sliding glass doors has a dowel to prevent the door from being lifted off the track.

Good Issue

Every window in the house has a working lock. As a back up, you can also place a dowel on your window track. This allows you to keep it open but still have security in place.

Good Issue

Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.

Good Issue

Note: This is extremely important for the front of your home. If you have a tall hedge blocking your front, it is an invitation for burglars.

Dark areas around the house are illuminated by motion sensor lights.

Good Issue

House number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly in the case of an emergency.

Good Issue

Light timers are used when the house is empty for an extended period of time.

Good Issue

Note: If you are going to use light timers don't use standard times like 6pm on time and 10, 11 or 12pm off time. Use odd times like 6:17pm. Also, change the times as the seasons change to be more realistic.

Get a neighbor or relative to pick up the mail during extended absences or vacations.

Good Issue

Get a neighbor or relative to park in the driveway and cut the lawn during extended absences.

Good Issue

Ensure that your entrance doors have deadbolt locks on them. Prevent your doors from being kicked in.

Good Issue

Ensure valuable recreational items, such as skis and bicycles are stored in a safe indoor area—not in a shed or garage.

Good Issue

Ensure your gates and shed doors have working locks.

Good Issue

Boxes are not left on the side of the road, indicating to strangers what types of valuables were recently purchased. They are turned inside out or brought directly to the recycling depot.

Good Issue

Home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures for insurance purposes.

Good Issue

Practice a fire escape route with your children so they are prepared in case of fire.

Good Issue

Change your smoke alarm batteries every time day light savings time changes. Also, ensure your smoke alarm is changed every 5-7 years.

Good Issue

Join or start a crime prevention group in your neighborhood. Contact Crimestoppers to set up a local group at <http://www.c-s-i.org/>

Good Issue

Do you have a video security system or monitored alarm system? Consider Defender Video Security Systems.

Good Issue

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO EVERYDAY

All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house—even if it's just for a few minutes.

Good Issue

All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.

Good Issue

The door that leads from the garage into the house is locked every time we leave the house.

Good Issue

Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is home or not.

Good Issue

The alarm or motion detector is turned on before leaving the house empty.

Good Issue

Don't place your keys or wallet near your entrance. Many burglars will take something near your entrance and make a quick getaway.

Good Issue

Keep your curtains closed when you can so that potential burglars don't see what you have.

Good Issue