

Exterior

- Do you have exterior lighting at every entry point?
- Do motion sensors control your exterior lighting?
- Do you ensure shrubbery or other structures do not provide a place where an intruder may hide?
- Are shrubs and bushes trimmed to a maximum height of no more than 42 inches?
- Are large trees trimmed so the lower branches are more than 7 feet off the ground?
- Does your residence's appearance give the impression someone is home at all times?
- Are your storage sheds or buildings locked?
- Are all second floor windows or doors locked and/or secured?
- Have you locked up your ladder that could be used by a burglar to climb to the second floor?
- Are all other openings to your home such as skylights, crawl spaces or vents protected?
- Is your house number illuminated and easily visible from the street during all hours?
- Do you remove your keys from your unlocked vehicle?
- Do you have good lighting in your driveway and on the path leading to your main entry door?
- Are all gate hasps 40 inches below the top of the gate and secured by through-bolts with rounded edges and locked with high security padlocks?
- Do you have a privacy fence?
- Do you have "Beware of Dog" signs posted?

Interior

- Do you check your doors and windows each time you leave home to ensure they are closed and locked?
- Do you keep your doors and windows locked when you are home?
- When away from home do you leave your window shades or blinds closed?
- When away from home do you leave a radio on and tuned to a talk only station?
- When your home is not occupied in the evening hours after dark, do you have lights that are controlled by timers?
- When you answer the door do you find out who is on the other side before you unlock or open it?

*Make a Habit of Using
Practical Safety Tips Every Day*

*Burglars will only spend a few
minutes trying to get into
your home.*

*The more deterrents you put
in their way the greater
the chance they
will move on.*

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The Complete Home Security Checklist



*Most burglaries
can be prevented with
a few simple precautions.*

The Perfect Security System

Okay, we know. Perfection in anything is unattainable. Truthfully, security systems are no different; but you can always come close. Armed with a little knowledge you can design a personalized security system that will give you peace of mind without costing a fortune.

Security systems need to do one of the following: make the thief think he will be caught if he attempts entry, increase the length of time it takes to enter, or catch the thief. The perfect security system has the ability to do all three through the use of visual and physical deterrents combined with an alerting component.

Visual deterrents make the criminal think that your house is difficult to enter and thus the risk of capture too high for him to attempt an invasion. They are things that can be seen from the street or as a burglar approaches your home. The visual deterrents you use will depend on your needs and preferences, but because they are so affordable and easy to implement, many people choose to incorporate several forms into their security system.

**"...peace of mind
whether you are
home or
on vacation."**

If visual deterrents fail to protect your home, physical deterrents take over, like the superhero for his sidekick. Time is the enemy for burglars; they need to get in and out of your house quickly. Physical deterrents make entering your home physically difficult, increasing the time it takes to commit a burglary to such an extent that the burglar will eventually give up - or even be caught. The type of physical deterrents you will need can be determined by taking a good look around your property.

Finally, make sure you have an alerting component built into your security system to increase the chance of the criminal's arrest. Some people choose to use monitored alarm systems while others rely on organized systems of neighbors. Either way, you want someone to be available to alert the police if anyone is trying to unlawfully enter your home.

Designing a security system that incorporates all three of the above elements will ensure that you will have peace of mind whether you are home or on vacation.

Sounds like perfection to us.

Doors

- Do you keep your doors locked at all times?
- Have you re-keyed your locks since you moved in?
- Do your doors have a wide-angle peephole viewer?
- Are all exterior doors solid core hardwood or metal covered?
- Are entrance doors equipped with 1" good quality dead bolts?
- Do you have 6" - 8" security strike plates?
- Is the strike plate reinforced with 3" screws that pass through the door frame and into the wall stud?
- Is glass in outside doors at least 40" from the lock?
- Do you have a window grille on your back door to prevent an intruder from breaking the window and reaching in to unlock the door?
- Is the glass in outside doors shatter resistant?
- Do all out-swing doors have a hinge with a locking pin or non-removable pins?
- Does your door snugly fit in your door jam? (within 1/4 inch)?
- Do you have a patio door bar fastened into both the frame and the door to securely lock the door?
- Have you inserted screws into the top track of your patio door to prevent it from being lifted up and removed?
- Do you leave your patio door open at night for ventilation, securing it with a patio door bar?
- Do you have decals on your patio door indicating that you use an alarm system even if you don't?

Garage

- Does your garage door close tightly?
- Are garage doors closed and locked when not in use?
- Does your automatic garage door opener use a "tolling code" system to prevent "code grabbing"?
- Does the overhead door have a track padlock for use while on vacation?
- If the garage door is not equipped with an electronic opener, does it have heavy-duty padlocks installed on both sides of the door?
- Is there a switch to shut off the automatic garage door?
- Is the door from the garage into the house equipped with a deadbolt and do you always lock it?
- Can the garage lights be turned on from inside the house?
- Do you have window security bars installed on your garage windows?
- Do you leave your garage door opener in a non-visible spot in your vehicle?
- Do you remove your keys from vehicles parked inside your garage even if the garage is locked?
- Do you remove all valuables from plain sight in your vehicle?

Windows

- Are all basement and ground floor windows fitted with window security bars, security pins or security latches?
- Are basement and ground floor windows shatter resistant?
- Do you have crime prevention or alarm decals in all accessible windows?
- Do you have window coverings on all windows to prevent outsiders from seeing in?
- If you have a window air conditioner, is it secured from the inside?
- Do you have Security Decals affixed to any basement and/or first floor windows of your home?

Alarm System

- Do you have a functioning alarm system installed in your home?
- Do you arm the alarm system if you are going to be in your backyard for any length of time?
- Do you have sensors installed on every door and every window?
- Do you have decals in all your accessible windows and doors stating that the house is protected by an alarm system?
- Have you advised your neighbors to call the police should your alarm go off while you are away?

Vacations

- Have you stopped all deliveries?
- Have you left shades and blinds in their normal positions?
- Have you set timers on lights and radio?
- Did you test your smoke and burglar alarms?
- Did you turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low?
- Is someone taking care of your yard?
- Is your mail being held or picked up?
- Have you notified your neighbors?
- Did you leave your vacation address and telephone number with a trusted neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency?
- Did you ask a neighbor to park in your driveway so it appears someone is home?

Additional Checks

- Do you belong to a community watch program?
- Do you have any cat/dog entrances or milk boxes that are big enough for a small child to fit through?
- Do you keep a list of all valuable property, credit cards, and serial numbers in a safe place?
- Is valuable property engraved with your driver's license number?