

Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

Don't make it easy for burglars to take advantage of your home, read the below ten tips to make your home or apartment more secure and less vulnerable to intruders:

- **Install a Deadbolt Lock:** Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn to the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave the house, even if just for a few minutes during the day. The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours.
- **Install Solid Doors:** Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1¾ inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.
- **Keep Garage Doors Closed and Locked**
- **Secure Sliding Doors and Windows:** Cut a brooms handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both casings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.
- **Secure Sash Windows:** To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a nail or pin. To prevent aluminum sash windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.
- **Mark Your Property:** Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list. Put warning stickers on doors and windows.
- **Purchase a Burglar Alarm:** A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly.
- **Leave a Light On:** When leaving on trips, leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.
- **Use Proper Exterior Lighting:** Place a light over every door. Double cone lights on each corner of the house will also light up windows.

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- **Work Together With Neighbors:** When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut the grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail. Tell neighbors to call Crescent City Police if they notice anything suspicious.

