

Burglary Prevention



Barriers to Burglary

Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make their work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in.

Your first line of defense

To a burglar visibility means vulnerability. They hide behind fences and shrubbery. The key is to keep trespassers out while keeping your property visible. Use picket or chain-link fences. Keep hedges clipped down around waist level.

Alarms

Consider the use of an alarm system. This would allow your property to be monitored at all times. Remember, an alarm system is an "extra". Always use locks and other basic safety precautions first. If you consider an alarm, get bids from several reputable companies and make sure you are comfortable with working the alarm system to prevent false alarms.

Outsmart the Burglar

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Check your locks on door and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. It is recommended to keep your doors locked even while your home is occupied.
- Ensure your property is well lit. Light is a great crime deterrent. Light up all dark areas, especially doors and windows. Remember that darkness is the thief's friend.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed or driveway shoveled if you are going to be away for an extended time.
- While on vacation, have someone pick up your newspapers and mail, so that they do not accumulate and alert burglars of your absence.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine or voicemail telling people that you are away from home.
- Work together with your neighbors. Organize a Neighborhood Watch and let your neighbors know when you will be away for an extended period.
- Display your house number conspicuously and have it well illuminated. This will help police and emergency personnel find your home quickly.
- Think like a burglar. "Case" your home the way a burglar would and look for easy ways to enter your home.