

DON'T BE A VICTIM

How do you fight crime at home?

Common Sense

Vigilance

Consistency

The FBI estimates that between 30—40% of all burglaries are unforced entries.



National Burglary Statistics

Front door break-ins—34%,
First-floor windows—23%,
Side entry-sliding glass doors—22%
Garages—9%
Basements—4%
Second floor windows-2%.



References

<http://www.scnus.org/page.aspx?id=101237>

http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20213859_20484818,00.html

<http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/nibrs/manuals/>



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Top Ten Things a Homeowner Can Do to Protect Their Family and Property

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Top Ten Things a Homeowner Can Do to Protect Their Family and Property

1) Lock your doors, windows at all times.

Use supplemental window locks, don't forget air conditioning units, patio door locks and side-mounted indoor locks for garage doors. Have at least a one and a half inch double cylinder deadbolt with extended strike plate and three inch screws.

Do not leave a spare key out—leave with neighbor.

2) Don't leave invitations for thieves – bicycles, lawnmowers, recent purchase boxes, etc. Close window coverings to stop window shopping. Secure your valuables— most burglars go straight for the master bedroom.

3) Use timers on indoor lights, music, and TVs. Have motion sensors on outdoor lights or just leave them on.

4) Trim or replace tall shrubs – criminals like to hide out of sight – Practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – CPTED Security

Keep entryways to your home visible to prevent people from being able

to sneak up.

Use landscape and design to define your territorial space.

Add hindrances to easy access – plant holly bushes or other thorny shrubs.

Target hardening – structural security, deadbolts, double-paned windows.

5) Have Security Patrol check your home when you are on vacation.

Don't leave signs of an empty house, such as mail, newspapers, overgrown lawns. Let neighbors know when you are out-of-town.

6) Neighborhood Watch – know your neighbors – close-knit neighborhoods report fewer break-ins.

7) Stay vigilant—Never open your door to unknown persons! Install peephole. Utilize alarm on key fob to frighten suspicious persons.

8) Dogs are a deterrent. Even a “Beware of Dog” sign is an effective deterrent.

9) Vehicles

Always lock, even in your carport—close windows and sunroof.

Do not leave valuables in plain view.

Do not leave keys in vehicle.

Do not leave garage opener in view.

Do not move valuables to trunk in plain view.

Be aware before you exit vehicle.

Utilize alarm on key fob to frighten suspicious persons.

10) Alarm Systems are the most effective security investment a homeowner can make. They can range from a very basic system to a gold standard system with cameras. The Golden Rule with any alarm system is to “ARM IT” and keep it armed at all times even when you are home. The most effective alarm systems have the following:

Outside siren

24 hour monitoring

Panic buttons

Door and window coverage

Glass breakage sensors

Motion sensors

Cameras