



## Home Safety Tips

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, one home will be burglarized in the United States. According to the FBI, 64.4 percent of residential burglaries nationwide occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Ways to keep your home safe

The more obstacles that you implement in keeping your home safe, the harder it will be for a criminal to break into your home.

### Alarms

- If your residence has a security alarm, use it every day, every time. Alarms are useless if they are not turned on.
- Check to see if your alarm has a battery back-up system in the event of power outage.

### Doors

- Deadbolt locks should be in good condition with a minimum 1” throw.
- Ensure door hinges are protected from removal from the outside.
- Strike plates should be installed with 3” screws for maximum security.
- Install an eye viewer with at least 180 degree visibility.
- Lock exterior doors, even when someone is home.
- Use locking “Charlie bars” in the center of sliding glass doors.

### Garage

- Keep the overhead garage door closed at all times when not in use.
- Remove keys from vehicles when they are parked in the garage.
- Lock the door between the garage and home.
- If keypad entry is used, frequently change the entry code.
- Ensure that doors, from the exterior to the garage and from the garage to the residence, are of metal or solid-wood construction.
- Cover or frost windows into the garage to prevent criminals from being able to view valuables from outside the residence.

### Outside

- Have your address visible from the street.
- Keep your front, rear and side exterior lighting on at night.
- Keep shrubbery next to the residence maintained at a height of 2 feet or shorter.
- Trees should be trimmed so lower branches are at least 6 feet above the ground.
- Lock exterior utility boxes to prevent unauthorized access.

- Do not hide keys outside the residence criminals know where to look.
- Vehicles parked outside of the garage should be locked, with garage door remotes removed.

### **Windows**

- Cover windows with drapery or frosting to prevent outside visual inspection of valuables.
- Keep windows closed and locked.
- For basement windows, install bars or security grates over window wells.
- Keep windows clear of obstruction from landscaping.

### **Valuables**

- Keep valuables in a bank safe deposit box, or in a fire proof safe in your residence. Home safes should be bolted to the floor to prevent removal.
- Record make, model , and serial number of your valuables.
- Valuables that do not have serial numbers can be engraved with an identifiable number (not a Social Security Number) to help identify recovered stolen property (Example: use two-letter state abbreviation followed by driver's license number, i.e. CO123456789).