

Home Security Tips

The Basics of Home Security

Protect Your Home

There is a burglary in our country every 10 seconds. Nine out of ten of those household burglaries are preventable. We would like to give you some tips on how you could prevent your home from being burglarized.

Burglar's 3 Enemies

Knowing a burglar's 3 worst enemies can help you from becoming a victim. A burglar's 3 worst enemies are: Light, Time and Noise. A burglar won't find your home an "easy target" if he's forced to work in the light, if he has to take a lot of time breaking in, and if he can't work quietly.

You should take some time to "case" your home as a burglar would to find out a few important questions.

Where is the easiest point of entry? How can you make it more burglar resistant?

Trim trees and shrubs near your door and windows, and think carefully before installing a high, wooden fence around your back yard. High fences and shrubbery can add to your privacy, but privacy is a burglar's asset. Consider trading a little extra privacy for a bit of added security. Force any would-be burglar to confront a real enemy - light. Exterior lights, mounted out of easy reach, can reduce the darkness a burglar finds comforting.

How can you slow burglars down?

Time is a burglar's second enemy. A burglar delayed for 4 or 5 minutes is apt to give up and try for another, less difficult location. Simple security devices - including such ordinary equipment as nails, screws, padlocks, door and window locks, grates, bars and bolts -- can discourage intruders and keep them from entering. Also make sure that you remove all ladders from view.

How about noise?

Try to make the general prospect of robbing your home a noisy job. Noise is that important third enemy of a burglar. Many types of alarm systems are available, with detectors to be mounted on doors and windows. Deciding just

how much protection you need and can afford is a personal judgment. You can also get a security

company to come and give you an evaluation and estimate for your home. Normally these services are free, however you should ask before agreeing to the service.

Are any of your valuables easy to see from the outside?

Make sure that anything valuable in your home is not easily seen from the outside. Paintings, a silver collection or an antique chair may be appealing to a burglar if he can see it in a window. Rearranging your furnishings might be advisable if it serves to make your home less inviting to criminals. Incidentally, should you ever need to report a burglary or file an insurance claim, a household inventory list could be a valuable document.

Doors, Windows & Locks

Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. The door frame should be made of equally strong material and each door should fit its frame securely. Sliding glass doors present a special problem because they are easy to open, however there are locks designed for them. A broomstick in the door channel can help, but don't depend on it for security. Deadbolt locks are best for securing doors.

Keys locks are also available for all types of windows.

Home Security Habits

-Establish a routine of locking doors, windows and turning on alarm system when you leave.

-Avoid giving information to unidentified telephone callers, or announcing your personal plans in want ads or public notices (such as giving your address when advertising item for sale). Notify police if you see suspicious strangers in your area.

-Handle keys carefully. Don't carry house keys on a key ring bearing your home address or leave house keys with your car in a commercial parking lot. Don't hide your keys in "secret" places outside your home - burglars usually know where to look.

-Remember special vacation tips. This is a clear giveaway that the owners are not home. When going on vacation, leave blinds open in their usual position. Have mail and packages picked up, forwarded or held by the post office. Lower the sound of your telephone bell so it can't be heard outside. Arrange to have your lawn mowed or your walk shoveled. Stop newspaper deliveries. Ask a friend to pick up "throwaway" newspapers and circulars. Use automatic timers to

turn lights on and off in your living room and bedrooms at appropriate times. Consider connecting a radio to a timer. Tell police and dependable neighbors when you plan to be away and join with your neighbors to keep a close watch on what's heppening in your area. Working closely with your neighbors or a neighborhood watch program is a good way to prevent crime.

...And Remember This

Confronting a thief in your home is frightening. Follow this advice:

- Run away if you can and call the police.
- Lock yourself in a room if you can't escape.
- Cooperate and stay as calm as possible should you find yourself face -to-face with a burglar.
- If you have guns in your home , just know that the FBI tells us that for every 1 burglar shot by a homeowner during a burglary, 6 homeowners are shot. That is a 6-1 odd against homeowners.

Statistics say that 1 in 4 homes will be burglarized. So we hope that we have given you some practical solutions to protecting your home. If you have any questions or would like a free evaluation and estimate please call us at :

S & S Security Alarms Inc.
1408 W. Pleasure Ave.
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 305-2527

or visit us on the web at:

www.s-sssecurity.com

It's up to you!

Ultimately, securing your home is up to you. Although nothing is fool-proof or guaranteed to keep you from being burglarized, these steps can help prevent it.

The number one advice that we can give you is to purchase some kind of security system that will inform the police, family, friends and neighbors that you choose to keep your home and personal belongings protected.