



Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked "no" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted. There is no expressed or implied guarantee that if suggestions are implemented that no criminal activity will take place.

Exterior Doors

	Yes	No
All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house—even if it's just for a few minutes.	☐	☐
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.	☐	☐
Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.	☐	☐
If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.	☐	☐
All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.	☐	☐
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.	☐	☐

Garage and Sliding Door Security

	Yes	No
The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.	☐	☐
The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.	☐	☐
Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.	☐	☐
The sliding glass door has a strong, working auxiliary lock.	☐	☐
A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.	☐	☐
The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.	☐	☐

Protecting Windows

	Yes	No
Every window in the house has a working auxiliary lock or is securely pinned.	☐	☐
Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.	☐	☐

Outdoor Security

	Yes	No
Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.	☐	☐
There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.	☐	☐
Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.	☐	☐
Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.	☐	☐
Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.	☐	☐
Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.	☐	☐

Security when Away From Home

Yes No

At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended period of time.

☐ ☐

The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.

☐ ☐

Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.

☐ ☐

A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

☐ ☐

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Yes No

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.

☐ ☐

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.

☐ ☐

Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.

☐ ☐

Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.

☐ ☐

Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.

☐ ☐

Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.

☐ ☐

Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number.

☐ ☐

Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.

☐ ☐

Remember...

- Most burglaries occur during daylight hours between 8 am to 5 p.m. while most people are at work or away from home.
- It only takes 3 minutes or less for a burglar to break in, steal your property and leave.
 - 1.) Lock you doors and windows, including the garage door, even if you'll only be gone a short time.
- Burglars stake out an area, posing as joggers, or someone looking for an address or a friend.
 - 1.) Be observant and report suspicious people, vehicles, and activities.
 - 2.) Keep license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles in case a crime is committed later; police usually question neighbors to see if they noticed anything unusual.
- If a burglar cannot break in to your home within 30 seconds, he'll move on to an easier target.
 - 1.) Make your home as hard as possible for anyone to break in.

- Statistically, in the US 50% of all burglaries occur using NO FORCE, the burglar just walked in through an unlocked door or window. In Washington County, the percentage ranges between 40 - 55%.
- Burglars usually use pillow cases, duffel or gym bags to carry the goods they steal.
 - 1.) If you are burglarized, check to see if any of your luggage or pillow cases are missing.
- Burglars target homes that look deserted.
 - 1.) Make your house look like someone may be home.
 - 2.) Leave a radio or TV on when you leave.
 - 3.) Leave lights on if you won't be home before dark, or have lights on timers to go on at dark.
 - 4.) Open drapes.
- Call when you see suspicious people, vehicles or activity... don't wait an hour to do so, and don't expect that someone else will make that call.