

Is Your Home Security Plan Missing These Key Measures?

Gina and Greg just purchased a new home in a nice suburban neighborhood. They were proud of their home, but could not help wondering how they were going to keep it secure. They had never really faced crime and were not sure what to do. They asked the police and local neighbors what they did. They were able to come up with a comprehensive list of easy ways to burglarproof your home. The impact of these tips can be understood without detailed explanation

Install an alarm system. Develop a habit of double checking windows and doors. Have keys ready when you are entering a home. Place brace bars in windows. Turned a walk in closet into a safe room. Keep your yard organized. When going out of town, let several trusted neighbors know. Never open your door for people asking to use the phone.

Sleep with a cell phone in your pocket. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Only use reputable repair and maintenance personnel. Never have a lock that does not require a key near a window. Do not give all your keys to auto mechanics. Keep your outside area well lighted. Keep large shrubs and bushes away from entrances.

Have a fence around your property. Put dead bolt locks on all your doors. Vary your daily routine. Do not leave a note on your door telling people where you are. Leave a light on in one or two of your rooms when you leave at night. Never leave your garage door opener in an unlocked car.

Never give out personal information to strangers who call on the telephone. Join a neighborhood watch project. If your telephone number is listed, do not list your address. If you are a woman living alone have your number listed under a male relative's name. Keep your valuables out of sight when company arrives.

Do not discuss the content of your home with anyone outside of your family. Never open your door to a stranger. Keep personal areas off limits to visitors. Never give the keys to your home to a stranger. Never have your name and address imprinted on a key. Always keep your drapes drawn at night. Pin the track of a sliding door by putting a screw into the upper track, protruding about a quarter-inch.

Secure conventional windows inexpensively by inserting a nail in a hole drilled through the interior frame and partially into the exterior frame. Put a keyed padlock on the garage roller track. Park your car in the driveway, not in the garage. Make sure that exterior lights are mounted out of reach, so that burglars can not easily unscrew bulbs.

Consider buying motion-sensitive lights. Use a variable light timer to activate lights inside your home. Use a variable light timer to activate lights outside your home. Get a dog even a small dog will do. Case your home the way a burglar would.

Be sure valuables such as guns, electronic devices and artwork are not visible from the street. Be sure to lock up ladders and tools, which could be used to break into your home. Place additional locks on all windows and patio doors.

Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. To avoid opening your door without knowing who is there, install a door viewer. Do not leave garden tools out. Never leave a spare key concealed anywhere near the front door. Burglars know all the hiding places.

Do not label your house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands. When moving into a new home, have all locks changed. Make sure your door hinges are on the inside. For maximum protection, use metal doors. Do not use doors with glass panels. Display "Beware" signs. If you have a dog or an alarm system, put up signs that say you do.

Be wary of wrong number calls and teach children what to say to strangers on the phone. Plant thorny shrubs under windows that could provide easy access into a home. Your house address should be visible on the front of the building. Report nonfunctioning streetlights. Have a fence around your property. Reinforce roof entrances. Do not display your name on the mailbox. Remove the crank handle when the window is closed. Know who is living in your neighborhood.

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