

# SECURING YOUR HOME



## WINDOWS AND DOORS

Install a security system or install dummy cameras.

Install Dusk to Dawn outdoor lighting.

Install motion sensor lighting around your home and carport.

Install window alarms or glass break sensors.

Keep all doors and windows closed and locked at all times when unattended.

Keep shrubbery around windows, entrances and walkways trimmed.

Add privacy film on exterior doors and anti-shatter window film on windows.

Secure sliding glass doors with a wooden dowel.

Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame - place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Close the curtains and blinds.

Don't be so quick to open the door.

Upgrade your locks (and use them). Chains don't work, use deadbolts with at least 1" throw.

Be careful about location of mirrors, be sure your alarm system isn't visible if someone else would peer through a window.

## CHEAP FIXES

Install a cheap timer on the TV.

Snag some cheap security signs.

Get a "Beware of dog" sign.

Keep a radio on when you are gone.

Get a free app that turns your old phones and tablets into security cameras (Camio).

## OUTDOORS

Get a locking mail box.

Don't label your personal keys or hide spares outside.

Lock up ladders and tools that can be used to break into your home.

Don't leave cardboard boxes outside that indicate something of value.

## VACATIONS

Don't mention vacation plans online or in public.

Have a neighbor park in your driveway if you are gone for an extended time.

Put newspaper and mail delivery on hold when on vacation.

## OUT SMART BURGLARS

Change your routine.

Don't advertise your wealth in your house or outside.

Hide your valuables in a bolted down safe and create a "decoy" box of fake valuables.

Get to know your neighbors, join PDR Neighborhood Watch.

Join PDR Neighborhood Watch and get a Neighborhood Watch window decal.

## CARS

Keep doors locked and windows up when not attending to your car.

Keep valuables out of view.

# If Your Home Is Broken Into

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.

Call 911, if you cannot or are afraid to speak out loud, you can also text “911” to reach DPS.

- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.
- Be sure to let PDR management know about the break in.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home – this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Mark your valuables with your driver’s license number with an engraver you can borrow from your precinct. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.

## SECURING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Call 911 if you see suspicious activities such as:

People slowly walking or driving in your neighborhood as they look into carports.

People sitting in a car for a prolonged time with the engine running.

People dropping someone off and continuing to cruise around the same area or pull over around the corner and park.

Vehicles cruising around your neighborhood for an extended period of time.

Always carry your cell phone to take photos or write down license plate numbers.

While doing on-foot observations in the East park, be sure the gate on Tasman is locked. Never let a stranger enter from that gate. Remove anything tied to the gate that could be a signal.

Do not approach suspicious individuals.

**DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CALL 911. THE POLICE WANT OUR HELP. CALLS ARE ANONYMOUS.**

Provide your location (space number AND street name) and contact information, age, gender and clothing of the suspect, description of associated vehicles or people, last known location of suspect or direction of travel.

**Join PDR Neighborhood Watch** and get to know your neighbors and learn how we “look out for each other.” Learn how to observe and report, we are the eyes and ears of the Sunnyvale Department of Safety. Members who attend a zone event get a NW window decal to display.

Contact Enid Fox, PDR Watch Coordinator at 408 734-0750 or [enid.fox1@gmail.com](mailto:enid.fox1@gmail.com) for more information about PDR Neighborhood Watch.