



Crime Prevention and Home Security

- Alarm systems should be used in addition to not in place of other security measures.
- House numbers should be in a well lit area and easily visible to neighbors and emergency response units.
- Exterior doors should be solid core. Hinges should be on the inside. Seal gaps between the door and frame in order to prevent a jimmy bar from being used.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and other entrances into the house from the garage or basement.
- Install wide angle viewers for exterior doors.
- Inserting a fitted piece of wood or metal in the sliding glass doors lower track improves security.
- Secure basement and ground level windows, as well as other possible points of entry, such as pet doors and window mounted air conditioners.
- Check references of people you employ to work in and around your home.
- List only surname and initials in the telephone book.
- Have adequate insurance coverage on your home and contents.
- Keep tools, ladders and garbage pails locked away.
- Keep bicycles, barbecues and lawn equipment securely stored.
- Have adequate exterior lighting.
- Trim trees and shrubs that could easily hide intruders.
- Don't leave notes on your door.
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside. They can be found.
- Don't use a nameplate outside of your house with your full name. A criminal can use this information to look up your number and call to see if you are home.
- Leave doors and windows locked whenever possible.
- Use curtains on basement and garage windows to prevent other from "shopping" for goods.
- Keep credit cards, identification and other valuables in a safe place, and use a safety deposit box or a safe for seldom used valuables.
- Avoid leaving house and car keys available to a thief or intruder.
- Do not leave purses or valuables in view of persons at your door.
- Insist on seeing identification from sales and service people.
- Shred paperwork with personal information before disposing of.
- Consider purchasing a home security system.
- Don't leave garage door opener or other valuables inside your car.