



DuPage County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff John E. Zaruba

501 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

HOME SECURITY SURVEY

Burglary and other crimes often occur in homes. This survey has been designed to help you identify vulnerable areas in your home. Burglars are criminals of opportunity. If you can reduce opportunity, then you reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Good home security is the first step.

Survey your home with the checklist below. Go through your home with this list carefully and systematically. Every "NO" check mark identifies a vulnerable area.

The next step is to organize your neighborhood into a "Neighborhood Watch" community. At this meeting, you will learn how to correct the vulnerable areas identified with this survey. Additionally, your police department has home security handouts that are loaded with suggestions on improving home security.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit of your police department. Keep your guard up. Take a critical look at your home security every 3 to 4 months. Do not become lax or you will be the burglars next victim.

Remember, crime prevention is a community effort. Law enforcement cannot do it alone. Help us make you make your neighborhood a safer place to live. Why not start with your home?

SAFE PRACTICES

YES

NO

1. Do you keep a list of valuable property?
2. Do you mark your valuable property with your Illinois drivers license number?
3. Do you have a list of serial numbers of your watches, cameras, computer equipment, stereos, VCR's and similar items?
4. Do you have a description, photos, or a VCR tape of other property that cannot be engraved?

YES

NO

5. Do you avoid unnecessary display of your property by keeping your garage door closed or valuables away from open windows?
6. Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank?
7. Are you organized so that you do not need to "hide" a key under the doormat or similar vicinity?
8. does your family know what to do if they discover a burglar breaking in or already in the house?
9. Have you told your family to leave the house undisturbed and call the police if they discover a burglary has been committed?
10. Do you have a security closet with a solid core door, pinned hinges and deadbolt lock?
11. Do you have 9-1-1 stickers or emergency telephone numbers listed on your phone?
12. Do you keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are in the house?

EXTERIOR

YES

NO

1. Are your trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?
2. Are lights installed around the perimeter of your house?
3. Do you leave lights on in the front and rear of your home all night?
4. Is your house number illuminated or easily visible from the street during all hours?
5. Have you limited access to the second floor and roof by locking up your ladder and avoiding climbable trellises and drainpipes?
6. Do you keep your side gate locked?

DOORS AND ENTRY AREAS

YES

NO

1. Are your exterior doors of solid core construction?
2. Do entry doors have a wide angle viewer?
3. Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and beveled cylinder guard?
4. Do the doors without cylinder locks have a heavy bolt or some similar secure device that can be operated only from the inside?
5. Can all of your doors (basement, porch, French, balcony) be securely locked?
6. Are your locks all in good repair?
7. Are the door strike plates and hinges installed with three-inch screws?
8. Do you know everyone who has a key to your house? (Or are there still some in possession of previous owners and friends?)
9. Do all out swinging doors have the hinges pinned or have non removable pins?
10. Are entry areas unobstructed by shrubbery and other decor to permit maximum visibility?
11. Do your exterior lights have a minimum 60 watt bulb?
12. Do sliding doors have an auxiliary lock that locks both the door panels together or the active side to the frame?
13. Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp or other good auxiliary lock and can it be locked from both sides?
14. Do you lock your garage door when not in use?
15. Do you lock your car and take the keys out even when it is parked in your locked garage?