

Home Invasion Prevention Tips

<http://www.hawaiipolice.com/community/community-policing#homeInvasionPreventionTips>

Home invasion is the residential version of automobile carjacking. Most home invasions occur at nights and on weekends when homes are more likely to be occupied. The people committing this type of crime rarely work alone and rely on an overwhelming physical confrontation to gain control and instill fear in their victims.

The same tactics used to prevent burglaries will go a long way toward preventing incidents of forced entry home invasion. If home invaders can be delayed at the point of entry, then there's a chance of deterring them and being able to call police.

Here are some prevention tips to consider:

1. Have a solid-core door for all entrance points.
2. Use a quality, heavy-duty deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt.
3. Use a quality, heavy-duty, knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism.
4. Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with three-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame.
5. Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors.
6. Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws.
7. Use highly visible alarm decals and beware of dog decals or neighborhood watch decals.
8. Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices.
9. Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window to unlock a door or remove a blocking device.
10. Use anti-lift devices to prevent the window from being lifted out.
11. Secure windows at night and, if need be, leave only a slight opening for ventilation purposes.
12. Get to know your adjacent neighbors.
13. Agree to watch out for each others home.
14. Use motion sensor lights near or around key entry points.
15. Use good lighting along pathways to and from main entry points.
16. Make sure any exterior lighting allows for 10-foot visibility.
17. Make sure your alarm system has an audible horn or bell to be effective.
18. Instruct your neighbors how to respond to your alarm should it become activated.
19. Be sure to activate your alarm system before leaving home or before retiring for the evening.
20. Identify your valuables by engraving objects with a set of numbers that only you would know, make a list of the items and their numbers and keep the list in a safe deposit box or somewhere in your home.
21. Photograph items of value.
22. Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other important documents.
23. Do not keep the PIN for your credit cards or debit cards in the same place.

The best defense against home invasion type crimes is education and planning. Have a security plan devised so that there are escape routes out of your residence or a safe location within your home. This location should have a telephone so that you are able to alert the police. If an escape route is part of your plan, make sure that everyone in the household knows where to run and what to say.

If your home is invaded, be sure to keep a cool head. Do not scream, yell out, cry or attempt any violent confrontation. Do not attempt to run or escape unless you can do so without getting hurt or caught. Do exactly as you are told — nothing more or nothing less. Do not volunteer information unless asked to do so. Without being obvious, take some time to remember the best possible description of the suspects. Remember, safety for yourself and family is paramount in this situation.

To request a home security check, call Lieutenant Jason Cortez, community policing coordinator, at 961-2350.