



## **ASHEVILLE PROTECTION AND DETERRENCE THROUGH CRIME PREVENTION**

# **Home Security Self Survey**

The goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. In order to accomplish this effectively, it is important to remove opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you and your property. You are attempting to prevent victimization by presenting an unattractive target to the criminal. This can be as complex as installing a high tech alarm system and lighting to something as simple as locking your doors.

Crime prevention is using instinct, common sense, and taking action to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal's opportunity. We all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention. A large share of the responsibility of reducing criminal opportunity lies with you.

This survey is limited mainly to the physical security of your residence. There are many other areas which also deserve your attention. A well rounded prevention program will also address; Personal Safety, Fire Prevention, How to Avoid ID Theft, a Home Inventory, and incorporating Operation Identification.

This checklist gives an indication of the security of your home. Every "NO" checked shows a weak point that may help a burglar gain access to your home. To improve your security, attempt to eliminate the boxes checked "NO". Go through the list systematically. Remember this checklist only points out your weak areas. Complying with these guidelines will not make your home burglar proof, but will greatly improve your protection.

If after completing this survey you find that the security of your home is poor or if you have any questions regarding security procedures and equipment, contact one of our Crime Prevention Specialists at [APDCrimePrevent@gmail.com](mailto:APDCrimePrevent@gmail.com) or 828.772.5999.

## **Did You Know?**

- Most crimes happen because someone gave a criminal an opportunity to act.
- Little planning goes into most burglaries.
- No neighborhood (rich or poor) is safe from crime.
- Professional burglars are very rare.
- Most burglars are neighborhood residents.
- Most home burglaries occur in the daytime.
- Most burglars enter through unlocked doors or windows.
- It takes less than two minutes for the average burglar to get into your home.
- If you can delay his entry for just three minutes, most burglars will give up and leave.
- Just the risk of being seen or heard will deter most burglars.
- A cooperative program such as Neighborhood Watch is a strong deterrent to crime.
- Most burglars will not enter an occupied home.

<b>Your Lifestyle</b>		Yes	No
1.	Do you consider security an important factor in family life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Is your family constantly aware of the risk of crime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Have you held a family meeting to discuss crime and the things that can be done to prevent it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Do you avoid telling strangers your daily routines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Have children been told not to discuss family business with strangers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Do you try to make your home look occupied, even when you are away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Do you have someone pick up your deliveries when you're away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Do you always leave a radio or TV on when you're away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Do you leave lights on and use timers when you're away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Do you avoid leaving notes for friends, services, etc on your front door when you're away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Do you avoid displaying valuable items in plain sight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Do neighbors routinely look out for each other and report suspicious strangers to police?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Have you become involved in your local Police Department's crime prevention program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Have you made your local officials aware of your feelings about crime in your community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	When approached by solicitors, either in person or by telephone, do you verify that the charity or group they represent is legitimate before you contribute?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Building Exterior and Yard</b>		Yes	No
1.	Are all vulnerable points well-lit at night?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Is shrubbery trimmed away from all doors and windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Is the yard neat and well cared for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	If a fence would increase your protection, do you have one?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Are all gates in good repair and properly locked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Are driveways, walkways and entrances brightly lit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Is shrubbery beside driveways, walkways and entrances trimmed to prevent attackers from hiding in wait?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Is all security lighting protected by vandal-proof housings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	If appropriate, do you use "thorny" shrubs and plants to deter access to your yard and vulnerable entry points?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Have you trimmed all trees that could provide access to an upper window or the roof?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Doors</b>		Yes	No
1.	Are all exterior doors of solid core construction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Are all doors equipped with good locks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Are all doors protected so that the locks cannot be reached and operated by breaking out glass panes or lightweight panels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Do exposed hinges have non-removable pins?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	If hinge pins are removable, are doors "pinned" to prevent removal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Is a good quality deadbolt lock with at least a 1" throw used on all exterior doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Is the lock designed or the door frame constructed to prevent opening the door by spreading the frame?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Is the bolt on all deadbolt locks made of case-hardened steel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Are all outside lock cylinders designed to prevent twisting or prying?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Are all double doors equipped with deadbolts and flush bolts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Are all locks cylinder type with five pin tumblers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Are all keys accounted for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Are locks changed when a key is lost?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	When you move into a new home, do you automatically change the locks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Do you avoid giving keys to service people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Are garage and out building doors kept closed and locked when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Are garage doors equipped with an automatic opener or secured with a hasp and padlock at each end?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Are padlocks locked in place when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Are hasps made of case hardened steel and equipped with non-removable screws?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Are padlocks equipped with heel and toe locking, five pin tumbler and a minimum of a 9/32" shackle made of case hardened steel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Have you eliminated or secured all pet doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22.	Have you eliminated all outside "hidden keys"?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23.	Have you removed the key codes from the bottom of all padlocks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Sliding Glass Doors</b>		Yes	No
1.	Have all sliding glass doors been equipped with a secondary lock to prevent them from being pried open or lifted out of the track?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Is safety glass installed in all sliding glass doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Windows**

- |    |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Have all sliding glass windows been equipped with a secondary lock to prevent them from being pried open or lifted out of the track? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | Do double hung windows have a secondary locking device?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Have louvered windows been replaced or have the panes of glass been glued in place permanently?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | Are all accessible second story windows protected in the same manner as ground floor windows?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. | Have you removed the cranks from casement windows?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. | Have all unused windows been sealed shut permanently?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. | Have you considered using a burglar resistant glazing in windows which are particularly vulnerable?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. | Are window locks installed in such a way that a burglar must break the glass to reach them?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### **Interior Protection**

- |    |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Do you store small valuables in a safe deposit box at a bank?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | If valuables must be kept at home, are they stored in a safe or security closet?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | If a home safe is used, does it weigh more than 750 lbs.?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | If not, is it anchored in place so that it cannot be carried off?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. | Do you know the difference between a fire safe and "money" safe?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. | Have you equipped an interior closet with reinforced interior walls, solid door, deadbolt lock and non-removable hinge pins for use in storing valuables? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. | Do you limit cash on hand to small amounts?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. | Do you have smoke detectors installed and fire extinguishers available?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. | Do you carry sufficient insurance to cover the loss of valuables?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Property Identification

		Yes	No
1.	Where possible, have you engraved your driver's license number on valuable property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Have you avoided using secret, coded or hidden identification as the only method of marking valuable property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Have you avoided using identification marks which cannot be easily traced by police (Social Security numbers, initials, personal codes, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Have you made an inventory of your property, recorded descriptions and serial numbers and filed the information away in a safe, fireproof place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Have you made a photographic record of the entire contents of your home with emphasis on items that cannot be easily marked such as jewelry and art works?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Personal Protection

		Yes	No
1.	Is your telephone number listed on the National DO Not Call Registry??	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	If you live alone, do you avoid advertising the fact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Do you require positive identification before you permit strangers to enter your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	If you are in doubt about a person's identification, do you verify it by contacting the organization they represent before admitting them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Do you supervise strangers who are legitimately in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Have you instructed children to avoid talking to strangers about your home, lifestyle, personal business, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Have children been instructed to never go anywhere with a stranger or allow a stranger into the house when you are away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Do you and your children avoid giving out personal information or family schedules over the phone or on social media?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	If suspicious about callers or strangers at your door, do you call the police?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Do you use a door viewer before you answer the door?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Do you verify the references of domestic help and baby-sitters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Have you removed all identifying information (name, address, etc.) from your key ring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Do you avoid giving your house keys along with your car keys when the car is parked or serviced?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Have you instructed family members, employers, co-workers and employees to avoid giving anyone information of any kind about you without your knowledge and permission?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Are you especially cautious about bringing sensitive or valuable business information or work home with you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Social Media</b>		Yes	No
1.	Have you stopped posting planned trips or vacations on social media?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Have you stopped posting pictures of your children and pets on social media?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	If you take pictures with your phone, do you have the Geotag turned off?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Do you monitor your children's social media accounts regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Did you eliminate any personal information from your social media that a criminal could use to find out where you live or work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Other Precautions</b>		Yes	No
1.	Have you considered getting a small dog with a loud bark to guard the house when you're away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Have you considered installing a burglar and fire alarm system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	If you have decided to buy or lease an alarm system have you talked to your local crime prevention specialist and gotten at least three estimates from alarm companies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Do you really understand what type of alarm system you require and how it works, its limitations, how it will be monitored, etc?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	If, because of your employment or position in life, you or your family members face a high risk of kidnapping or personal violence, have you consulted a security specialist to develop a protection program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Obviously, completing this checklist won't solve all your security problems. It will however, give you a good idea of the level of security you now have. With that knowledge, you can begin to develop a security program that provides the type of individualized protection your particular home requires.

If after completing this survey you find that the security of your home is poor or if you have any questions regarding security procedures and equipment, contact Asheville Protection and Deterrence through Crime Prevention and ask to speak with one of our crime prevention specialists. Your time will be well justified by making your home a safer, and more secure place.

Remember too, this survey covers only a small part of a complete residential security program. Your residence isn't fully protected until you have taken steps to improve the security of every aspect of your home.

For more information please visit our website at: [www.apdcrimeprevent.com](http://www.apdcrimeprevent.com) or contact us at [APDCrimePrevent@gmail.com](mailto:APDCrimePrevent@gmail.com) or 828.772.5999.