



Take a walk around your home and follow this checklist to make sure your home is in the best burglar proof shape it can be. Some areas may require small investments like proper locking mechanisms, security alarm systems, and motion sensor lighting, but is far worth the cost rather than the hassle of replacing valuable items in your home.

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Safe Practices and Operations

Do you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch Program?

Yes No

Do you keep a list of all valuable property including pictures?

Yes No

Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your electronic equipment (TV, DVD, Gaming Consoles, Computers, Video and Camera Equipment, etc.)?

Yes No

Do you have a description of other valuable property that does not have a number?

Yes No

Do you avoid unnecessary display or publicity of your valuables?

Yes No

Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank?

Yes No

Do you plan so that you do not need a “hide-a-key” on your property?

Yes No

Have you told your family what to do if they discover a burglar breaking in or already in the house?

Yes No

Do you have emergency phone numbers listed by your telephone?

Yes No

Is your house number illuminated and easily visible from the street during all hours?

Yes No

Have you locked up your ladder and avoided trellises or drainpipes that could be used by a burglar to climb to the second floor or roof?

Yes No

Lighting and Landscaping

Are lights installed around the perimeter of your house?

Yes No

Is the front door well lit?

Yes No

Is the back door well lit?

Yes No

Do you have motion sensor exterior lighting?

Yes No

Is public or residence lighting sufficient to illuminate all sides of you home?

Yes No

Are your trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?

Yes No

Are shrubs and bushes trimmed to a maximum height of no more that 42 inches?

Yes No

Are large trees trimmed so the lower branches are more that 7 feet off the ground?

Yes No

Are ground plants under windows maintained at a height that is below the windowsill?

Yes No

Doors and Entry Areas

Are your exterior doors of solid core construction?

Yes No

Do entry doors have a wide-angle optical viewer?

Yes No

Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and beveled cylinder guard?

Yes No

Do the doors without cylinder locks have a heavy bolt or some similar secure device that can be operated only from inside?

Yes No

Can all of your doors (basement, porch, French, balcony) be securely locked?

Yes No

Are your locks all in good condition?

Yes No

Are the door strike plates (the jam fastening that receives the bolt in the locking position) installed with 3" screws?

Yes No

Do you know everyone who has a key to your house? Or are keys still in possession of previous owners and friends?

Yes No

Do all out-swing doors have a hinge with a locking pin or non-removable pins?

Yes No

Are entry areas unobstructed by shrubbery and other décor to permit maximum visibility?

Yes No

Does the porch light have a minimum 60-watt bulb?

Yes No

Do sliding doors have an auxiliary lock that locks both the door panels together or active side to the frame?

Yes No

Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp, or other good auxiliary lock and do you use it?

Yes No

Is the interior door from your garage to your home treated as an exterior door in terms of security? (solid core, deadbolt...)

Yes No

Do you lock your garage door whenever you are not in the garage?

Yes No

Do you lock your car and take the keys out even when it is parked in your garage?

Yes No

Do you leave your garage door opener in a visible spot in your car?

Yes No

Do you remove all valuables from plain sight in your vehicle?

Yes No

Windows

Are all windows equipped with auxiliary locks or pinned?

Yes No

Have you replaced or secured louvered windows?

Yes No

Are your window locks properly and securely mounted?

Yes No

Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut?

Yes No

Do you have good, secure locks on garage windows?

Yes No

Do you have garage windows covered with curtains or blinds?

Yes No

Are you as careful of basement and second floor windows as you are those on the first floor?

Yes No

Do you have defense plants (large, thorny plants) planted below easily accessed windows?

Yes No

Have you removed items below windows that could be used to reach the window?

Yes No

Do you keep your drapes drawn at night so people can't see in your home?

Yes No

Can windows left open for ventilation be secured?

Yes No

Vacations

Did you stop all deliveries and arrange for a trusted neighbor or family member to pick up your mail, newspaper and packages?

Yes No

Did you ask a trusted neighbor to watch your residence while you are away?

Yes No

Did you leave your vacation address and telephone number with a trusted neighbor so you can be reached in case of emergency?

Yes No

Did you test your smoke and burglar alarms?

Yes No

Did you arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home lived in look?

Yes No

Did you plug in timers to turn lights and radio or television on and off at appropriate times?

Yes No

Did you turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low?

Yes No

If you have call forwarding, did you have your calls forwarded to a trusted friend or relative?

Yes No

Did you leave shades and blinds in a normal position?

Yes No

Did you close and lock garage doors and windows?

Yes No

Did you ask a neighbour to park in your driveway as it appears someone is home?

Yes No

Did you arrange for your garbage to be put out on trash day?

Yes No

Did you ask the Security Company, Police or By-Law enforcement for a vacation house check while you are away?

Yes No