

How to Prevent Burglary

Take action to avoid home break-ins.



Simply put: Burglars are looking for easy targets. Here are some tips for making your home the one they skip.

Lights

- Burglars prefer dark properties. Keep your home and property well-lit by pointing bright motion detector lights at or near entrances.
- When you're away from home, leave some lights on. Better yet, schedule them to turn on at different intervals to make it seem like someone is inside.



Locks

- Not all locks are created equal. Locks vary in strength and the time it may take to cut through them. Upgrade to heavy-duty, dead bolt locks for maximum protection.
- If you just moved into a different house or apartment, change the locks and consider adding a dead bolt for extra security.



2.15 million burglaries occur each year.

Doors

- Solid core wood and metal doors are the strongest.
- Add a small peephole so you are able to identify who is outside your door without opening it.
- Sliding glass doors are especially vulnerable. Secure them with a secondary lock or wooden dowel cut to the length of the stationary window.
- Garage service doors are easy targets. Add a dead bolt. If you have an attached garage, keep the door leading to the house locked.



Windows

- Keep windows locked, especially those on the ground floor.
- Install safety glass on lower level windows.
- If you have basement windows, use locked grilles or grates (which can be easily opened from the inside in the event of a fire).



The majority of all burglaries – **65 percent** – are residential.

Mail

- An overflowing mailbox is an obvious sign you're away. When traveling, ask a neighbor to collect your mail or have it held at the post office until you return.



Yard Maintenance

- Remove shrubbery from windows so you're able to clearly see outside.
- Cut down tree limbs close to elevated windows to keep burglars from climbing them to access your house.
- Long grass and out-of-control weeds signify you may be away from home. Ask a friend to maintain your lawn while you are away.
- In winter, an unshoveled driveway is a telltale sign your house is empty. Hire a service or ask a neighbor to keep it clear.



Alarms

- Alarm systems are a great secondary safety investment. Buy an alarm system that makes a loud noise and alerts local law enforcement.
- Not up for a security system? A dog is another great form of security.



Enhancing your home to prevent burglary doesn't have to be expensive. Just keep in mind that the better lit, lived-in and lively you make your property, the better.