

Protecting Your Home Tips

Locks:

External Doors: Have sturdy, professionally installed dead bolt locks. Always keep your door locked.

Sliding Glass Doors: Secure with a security bar specifically designed for your sliding door or at the very least, a broomstick or dowel in the inside track.

Windows: Lock double-hung windows with key locks, however, make sure all household members have easy access to the keys and know how to unlock windows in the event of a fire.

Keys: Don't hide your house keys anywhere outside of your home. Burglars know all of the hiding places and it is the first thing they look for. Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust instead.

Door:

Solid: All outside doors should be metal or solid wood to reduce being kicked in.

Tight Fit: Reduces the chance of a pry bar being used to force open the door. Weather stripping can be used.

Peephole: Install on all entry doors and always use prior to opening the doors.

Know Your Visitors: Confirm the identity of all visitors prior to opening the doors. Ask for identification from all service company employees.

Outside and Inside:

Well-lit: Install motion lights.

Clean: Keep the yard clean; prune shrubbery back from the windows and side of the house.

Visible Numbers: So that police, etc. can locate your home in an emergency.

On Vacation: Request a nightly security check by local police and inform a trusted neighbor. Stop newspaper and mail services while gone.

Never tell anyone you are home alone.

Never keep the house completely dark. Use night lights.

Alarms:

An investment: A good idea if you have lots of valuables or if you live in an isolated area.

Don't Cry Wolf: Learn to use your system properly.

Options: Less expensive and less effective, are sound detecting sockets, motion sensing lights, and lights with photo cells.

Caught in the Act:

Don't Take a Chance: Don't enter your home if you see signs of entry.

Get Away: If you hear someone entering, leave the house safely or lock yourself in the room and call the police.

After the Fact:

Report It: Call police immediately; remember descriptions.

Ask For Help: Victim-witness support groups, family and friends.

Get Involved:

Clean Up: Make your neighborhood safer by reporting broken street lights and cleaning up parks, etc.

Join Up: Join a neighborhood watch group. Contact USA on Watch at www.USAonWatch.org for more information.