



Personal Safety Home Security Checklist

One of the most important things you can do is to be proactive about your personal safety. Please use this checklist as a guide for ensuring your personal safety in your home. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted. If you mark any of the boxes "no", please consider taking action to improve your home (and your personal) safety/security.

Exterior Doors

- All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or

metal-clad and is protected with a keyed door lock and deadbolt.

- The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- All sliding glass doors have strong, working, engaged locks.
- A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- All sliding doors are locked every night and each time we leave the house .

Protecting Windows

- Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation

Outdoor Security

- ❑ Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- ❑ There are no dark areas around our house, garage or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- ❑ Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- ❑ Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- ❑ Outdoor lights are on in the evening – whether someone is at home or not. (The other option is that a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.)
- ❑ Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

- ❑ At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence when we are away from home for an extended period of time.
- ❑ The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- ❑ Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- ❑ A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

- ❑ Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked with quality padlocks.

- ❑ Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked after every use.
- ❑ Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- ❑ Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- ❑ Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- ❑ Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- ❑ Valuable items such as TVs, stereos and computers have been inscribed with identifying numbers and a list of those numbers is kept outside the home.
- ❑ Our home inventory is up to date and includes pictures. A copy of this complete list is kept somewhere out of the house.