

SAFE & SECURE



Home Security Check List

Preventive Programs
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Protect Your Property

This checklist is designed to help you prepare a security survey of your residence. No property is completely burglar proof but these tips can help deter a burglar.

The first purpose of a security inspection is to identify features in your home, or the daily routines of your family, which might make your property an easy target for a burglar.

The security inspection should begin at your front walk and include an inspection of all your doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Each question on the checklist that you answer with a, "No," indicates a security weakness or hazard that requires your attention.

For further information on crime prevention please contact the Preventive Programs Unit at 312-745-5838. The Preventive Programs Unit will come to your home or business and conduct a Security Survey to assess the overall security of your facility. Also, the Preventive Programs Unit can arrange for a Chicago Police Officer to present a crime prevention program to your group or business on Burglary prevention.

Home Security Hints

Make sure all doors to the outside have good locks -- deadbolt locks with a minimum 1-1/2 inch bolt. Make sure locks are also installed on screen and storm doors, garage doors, cellar doors, patio doors, and any other door that leads to the outside (including second-floor patios or decks).

Always use the locks on both your home and your garage. Lock up every time you go out, even if it's only for a few minutes.

Never hide keys outside, such as under a bush or in a flowerpot. Burglars know where to find "secret" hiding places. It is much better to leave a key with a trusted neighbor.

Make sure that all windows are securely shut and locked before you exit your residence. If a window is left open make sure it is secured with a properly installed window frame lock.

Make sure all porches and other possible entrances are well lit, with at least 40-watt bulbs. A well-lit house is far better protected than a house without lights.

Overgrown bushes, tree limbs, or landscaping can provide cover for burglars. Trim them to the height of porches or windows.

If you are out during the day or on vacation, use an automatic timer to turn on lights and a radio at different times of the day. It is an easy way to disguise the fact they you are not at home.

Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers every day while you are on vacation. Have a neighbor use your garbage cans occasionally. During the winter, arrange to have snow shoveled

DOORS

1	Are all outside doors in the house of metal or solid wood construction?	Yes ___ No ___
2	Are doorframes strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?	Yes ___ No ___
3	Are door hinges protected from removal from the outside?	Yes ___ No ___
4	Are all door locks adequate and in good repair?	Yes ___ No ___
5	Can the locking mechanism be reached through a mail slot, window, or pet entrance at the door?	Yes ___ No ___
6	Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?	Yes ___ No ___
7	Are all entrances lighted with at least a 40 watt light?	Yes ___ No ___
8	Does the porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from the street or public area?	Yes ___ No ___

WINDOWS

9	Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?	Yes ___ No ___
10	Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?	Yes ___ No ___
11	Do window frames have burglar locks installed to prevent an open window from being raised more than 1 to 2 inches?	Yes ___ No ___
12	Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping?	Yes ___ No ___
13	Is the exterior adequately lighted at all window areas?	Yes ___ No ___
14	Are ladders secured so that they are not accessible?	Yes ___ No ___
15	Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance?	Yes ___ No ___

Post this Checklist so it will regularly remind you of these important security tips.