



Burglary Prevention



Each year in the U.S, there are more than five million home burglaries. Nine out of ten of these crimes are preventable. The risk of being burglarized can be greatly reduced by taking simple steps to make your home more difficult to enter and less enticing to would-be burglars.

Lighting

- Make sure that exterior lights are mounted out of reach, so that burglars can't easily unscrew bulbs.
- Consider buying motion-sensitive lights, which are now available at relatively low prices.
- Use a variable light timer to activate lights inside your home.
- Trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows so burglars can't hide in the shadows

Locks

- **USE YOUR LOCKS!** Many burglaries are to unlocked homes!
- Installing deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- When installing a new lock, use 3" screws to install the strike plate. That way the screws install directly into the wall stud instead of the door frame.
- Placing additional locks on all windows and patio doors.

Other tips to prevent break-ins:

- Think like a burglar. "Case" your home the way a burglar would and look for easy ways to enter your home.
- Be sure valuables such as jewelry, electronic devices and prescription drugs are not visible from the street.
- Be sure to lock up ladders and tools which could be used to break into your home.
- Work together with your neighbors. Organize a Neighborhood Watch and let your neighbors know when you will be away for an extended period.
- While on vacation, have someone pick up your newspapers and mail, so that they do not accumulate and alert burglars of your absence.
- Display your house number conspicuously and have it well illuminated. This will help police and emergency personnel find your home quickly.

