

Basic Crime Prevention Tips

Keep all doors and windows **closed** and securely **fastened**. An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars. Thieves are also quick to spot weak locks that may be easily forced open. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three-inch screws. All windows should have window locks.

◆ Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track and install vertical bolts. These will help prevent burglars from forcing the door open or lifting it off the track.

◆ Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.

◆ Update locks if necessary.

◆ Burglar alarms - Not necessarily a deterrent for the "professional", but more for peace of mind. Can reduce the amount of time thieves are in your home, and help to notify the police of a problem.

◆ Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. While large, ornate hedges may be beautiful, they also provide a hiding place for burglars who need only a minute to break in through a window or door.

◆ Secure your valuables in a home safe or lock box.

◆ Photograph your valuables and log their serial numbers.

◆ Apply a personal identification number such as your driver's license number on your valuables by engraving or with a permanent marker.

◆ Lights with motion sensors are a great way to keep the perimeter of your home well lit.

◆ Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, will deter criminals.