

Home Security Checklist

Use this guide as you check your home for safety measures. A box marked "no" indicates areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home will be targeted.

Front of House	N/A	Yes	No
The address easily visible and readable from a distance in a contrasting color from background? Illuminated after dark?			
The front windows and doors are visible to your neighbors and passers-by?			
Landscaping is properly maintained to allow open sightlines and eliminate hiding places? Bushes shorter than 36 inches, Trees limbed up to 7 feet or higher, shrubs near windows maintained below windowsill.			
There are no areas of easy concealment			
The gate is kept locked			
There are no objects that could be used to climb over my fence trash cans, utility boxes, shorter fences, benches, trees place too close to fence etc.			
Yard is properly maintained, and the house appears occupied. no flyers on the doors, old newspapers, trash etc.			
There are no dark areas at night that could hide prowlers			
There is a working light near the front door to illuminate visitors			
Outdoor lights are on at night even when someone is not home (photocell, timer, or motion detector)			
The lights are installed or designed to illuminate downward and not create glare that could impair offsite surveillance			

Exterior Doors and Windows	N/A	Yes	No
Doors			
All doors are kept locked at night and when leaving the house (even if just for a few minutes)			
There are no unsecured house keys left outside the house (not under matt, in mail box, planter etc.),			
Any "emergency" key it is in a lock box or in the possession of a trusted neighbor			
There are no objects readily available to use to force entry into the house (large rocks, bricks etc.)			
Doors are of solid construction or metal clad			
The door frames are in good repair and the door fits tight			
The front door has a wide angle eye viewer / peephole			
There are no mail slots, pet doors or other openings within reach of the door lock (40 inches)			
The doors have a properly installed deadbolt lock with a 1 inch "throw"			
The keys have been changes since moving in.			
The strike plates are properly installed using 2 to 3 in screws securing it to the wall's frame work			
The deadbolt extends into the strike plate far enough that the lock "clicks"			
Out-swinging doors have the proper hinges (non-removable pins, tabbed, set screw etc.)			
Double doors have a slide/drop bolt top and bottom on the fixed door with properly installed strike plates			
Sliding doors (aka arcadia doors) cannot be lifted from the track in the closed position			
Sliding doors manufacture's locks work properly and have a secondary lock/latch in place ("Charlie bar" pin, slide bolt, dowel etc.)			
Windows			
All windows are closed and latched when no one is home			
Windows have two locks or latches either from the manufacturer or with an aftermarket secondary			
lock/latch.	<u> </u>		
Sliding windows cannot be lifted from their track in the closed position			
Casement (crank open) windows have properly functioning hardware and the latching lever engages the window			



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Garages and Carports	N/A	Yes	No
The door from the house to an attached garage is securable like an exterior door listed above			
The door between the house and the attached garage is kept locked			
The garage door is never left open and unattended			
Open carports are not used to store valuables			
Attic entrances from a carport are secured with a lock			

Back Yard	N/A	Yes	No
Tools, ladders, bicycles, equipment is secured in a locked shed or garage when not in use			
All gates to the back yard are kept locked			
The alley fence has the address on it			
There are no objects that could easily be used to climb over the alley fence trash cans, utility boxes, shorter fences, benches, trees place too close to fence etc.			
There is no pet door leading into the house			

Other Security Measures	N/A	Yes	No
Timer or photocell activated interior lights are set up when away from the home for an extended			
period of time			
There is a current inventory list of valuables including photographs and serial numbers, and			
valuables are marked or engraved as is appropriate for each item			
If an alarm system is installed it is regularly maintained and tested			
All adults with authorized access to the house have been properly trained in the operation of the			
alarms system (cancelling false alarms, pass codes etc.)			
Important documents, jewelry, and other items of high value are kept in a safe or safe deposit box.			
Residents participate in a neighborhood watch and/or know the neighbors on all sides			

The above suggestions are made as a public service, for the purpose of reducing the likelihood of criminal activity with the understanding that there is no way to predict or prevent all crime risks.

NOTES