

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. Almost 50 percent of burglars enter homes or property through unlocked doors or windows.

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 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 have recently purchased a television, stereo equipment, or other household items, wait to discard the boxes until the morning of the garbage pickup day.

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

Protect Your Property

In order to assist in Burglary Investigations, homeowners should keep an inventory of all items of value and record their serial numbers. Use an engraving tool to inscribe your driver's license number on your property along with another signifying mark known to you. This aids in making identification easy and prompt should your property be recovered by the Chicago Police Department. Photograph any valuable items that lack serial numbers, also take photos of the entire room. You should store this list and accompanying photos at a separate location, like a safety deposit box, to prevent them from being stolen or damaged. Make additional copies of the blank "inventory table" as needed.

For further information on crime prevention please contact the Preventive Programs Unit at 312-745-5838. Through the Preventive Programs Unit you can arrange for a Chicago Police Officer to present a crime prevention program to your group on topics ranging from: Robbery prevention, Gangs and Drugs, Burglary prevention, and many more. The Preventive Programs Unit will also come to your home or business and conduct a Security Survey to assess the security of your facility.

Beware of the Burglar



Home Inventory

Preventive Programs
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