

## Home (Residential) Security Survey

Presented by:  
American Crime  
Prevention Institute



- Yes No
- Do you belong to a Neighborhood Watch Program?
  - Is there effective street lighting in your neighborhood?

- Yes No
- If your home is located along an alley, are the house numbers plainly visible from the alley?
  - Are shrubs, bushes and other plant growth within six (6) feet of any home sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates maintained at a height of not more than two (2) feet?

- Yes No
- Has decorative stone or rock been used as ground cover near the home so that it makes noise when someone walks on it?
  - Has fencing, paving, landscaping or some other comparable means been used to identify when a person transcends from public or private property?
  - If there is a fence around the home or property, are the gates routinely locked?
  - Do family members routinely secure items of value such as bicycles, lawn mowers, ladders, etc. at night or when the home is not occupied?

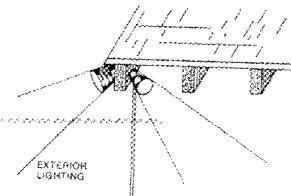
## Neighborhood Security

- Yes No
- Have you met and become acquainted with the neighbors who live on all sides of your residence?
  - Have you talked to your neighbors about mutual neighborhood security?
  - Do you tell your neighbor when you are going on a vacation or your home is unoccupied for an extended period of time?

## Home Exterior

- Yes No
- Is your house number easily visible from the street, with numbers at least 4" high?
  - If there is a street curb in front of your home, are your house numbers painted on the curb in black letters four (4) to six (6) inches high on a white background?
  - If your home has a mailbox near the street, are your house numbers on the mailbox at least three (3) inches high?

- Yes No
- Are shrubs, bushes and other plant growth between six (6) and twelve (12) feet from any home sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates maintained at a height of not more than three (3) feet?
  - Are trees trimmed so that lower branches are at least six (6) feet off the ground?
  - Are trees located or trimmed so that they cannot be used to gain access to an upper level of the home?
  - Are spiny (thorny) plants used as ground cover along fences and under windows of the home?



- Yes No
- Are all entryways, porches and walkways to the residence well lighted?
  - Are all sides of the residence protected by security lighting that is located high out or reach (under the eaves of the house preferably) and is vandal resistant?

Yes No

- Are exterior lights controlled by photocell (versus interior switches)?
- Is motion detection lighting used on the exterior of the home?

Yes No

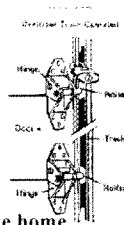
- Are telephone lines entering the home high enough that they cannot be easily reached and cut?
- If there are detached buildings on the property (garage, storage building, barn, etc.), are the doors and windows security locked?

## Garage

Yes No

- Is the garage door kept closed when not in use?
- Is the garage door locked at all times (even when the occupant is at home)?

- When the occupant is on vacation or the home is unoccupied for an extended period of time, is the overhead track operated garage door disconnected from inside the garage (so that it cannot be opened with an electronic remote device)?



Yes No

- When the occupant is on vacation or the home is unoccupied for an extended period of time, is a case hardened padlock inserted in a hole drilled in the overhead door track to prevent the door from being opened?
- Are the doors leading into the garage or from the garage into the home either solid wood or metal core and do they have a good quality deadbolt lock with a high security strike plate?

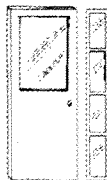
Yes No

- Are garage windows pinned to deny easy access?
- Are electronic garage door openers removed from vehicles parked outside of the garage?
- Are keys removed from motor vehicles when they are parked inside the garage?

## Doors

Yes No

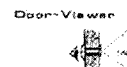
- Are exterior or entrance doors either solid core or steel?
- Are door locks that can be opened from the inside at least 40" from glass?
- For exterior doors with glazing within 40" of the door lock, is break resistant polycarbonate glazing material used?

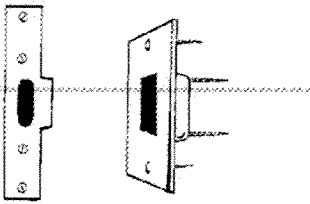


Type: Glass in door with in 40 inches of the lock

Yes No

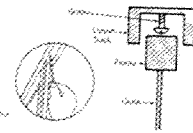
- Do exterior or entrance doors fit tightly within the door jam?
- Do exterior doors have wide angle (180°) door viewers?





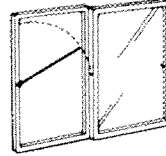
Yes No

- Are exterior door strike plates secured with screws at least 3" long?
- If exterior doors swing outward and have exposed hinge pins, have removable pins been replaced with non-removable pins?

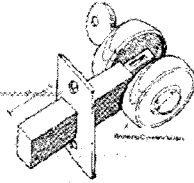


Yes No

- Have screws been installed in the tracks of sliding glass doors?
- Are locking bars (or "Charlie Bars") used to secure sliding glass doors?



## Locks



Yes No

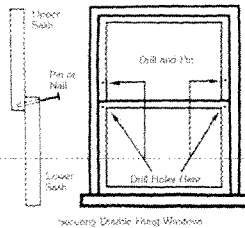
- Are deadbolt locks with at least a 1" throw installed on all exterior or entrance doors?
- Was the home re-keyed the last time a new occupant moved in?

- Are the door locks in a good state of repair?
- Do occupants of the home hide keys outside the house someplace?

## Windows

Yes No

- Have double hung windows been pinned?



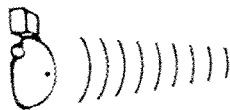
Yes No

- Have crank handles been removed from casement windows?
- Do basement window have security bars, grills or auxiliary locks?
- Are window air conditioners anchored and protected by steel grillwork to prevent removal from the outside?

## Security Alarm System

Yes No

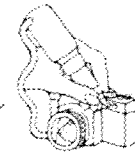
- Does the home have an electronic intrusion alarm system?
- Was the alarm installed by an experienced, reputable, and reliable alarm installation company?
- Is the home security alarm monitored by a professional alarm monitoring company?



Yes No

- If the alarm system is more than five (5) years old, has the equipment been evaluated for upgrading or updating?
- Have all responsible members of the household been trained how to properly arm and disarm the alarm system?
- Does the alarm system have a back-up power source (battery)?

## Miscellaneous Home Security Measures



Yes No

- Does the home have a security closet for the storage of firearms, silver coin collection, etc. with either load-bearing or reinforced walls and a high security lock?
- Does the home have an Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) burglary resistant safe?
- Have valuable papers such as stocks and bonds certificates, mortgages, property titles and deeds, birth, marriage and death certificates, passports, income tax records, etc. been placed in a rented safe deposit box?

Yes No

- Has the homeowner participated in Operation Identification and engraved items of value?
- Has the homeowner made a complete inventory of household goods and valuable (ideally with a photo or videotape of the items)?
- Are all exterior doors locked at night or when the home is unoccupied?

Yes No

- Is a radio or television left on and playing when the home is unoccupied?
- Are interior lights visible from the outside left on when the home is unoccupied at night?
- If there is a death in the family, are arrangements made for a house-sitter the day of the funeral?
- Are children taught not to open the door to strangers?

Yes No

- Is there a cellular phone in the house in the event telephone lines are cut or inoperative?
- Are accessible openings to the home such as skylights, crawl spaces, vents, etc. protected by a strong, well fitting cover and high quality lock?
- Is there any type of home or personal identification information on key rings?

## Vacation Checklist

Yes No

- Are home deliveries stopped and arrangements made for a trusted neighbor or a family member to pick up mail, newspapers, and packages?
- Are trusted neighbors asked to watch the residence when the occupants are away on vacation?
- Are arrangements made to have the lawn mowed or snow removed during a vacation?

Yes No

- If the local law enforcement agency or Neighborhood Watch organization has a home vacation program, are they notified when the occupant is on vacation?
- Is the vacation address and telephone number left with a trusted neighbor or a family member so that the occupant can be reached in the event of an emergency?

Yes No

- Are lights and a radio or television connected to timers that turn them on and off at appropriate times?
- Are arrangements made to have garbage cans placed on the curb for normal pickup days and returned to the house or garage after the pickup is made?
- Are window shades and blinds left in their normal position when the occupant is on vacation?

Yes No

- Is the bell or ringer on the home telephone turned down low when the occupant is on vacation?
- Does the message on the telephone answering machine indicate the homeowner is on vacation?