



Cumberland CrimeWatch

Building Safer Neighborhoods Together

BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

Each year in the United States of America there are more than five million home burglaries reported. 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 the average would-be criminal element.

Remember, some of the greatest weapons in the fight to prevent burglaries are light, time, and noise!

LIGHT:

- Make sure that exterior lights are mounted out of reach so that burglars cannot easily unscrew bulbs or move lights.
- Consider buying motion-sensitive lights, which are very reasonably priced.
- Use various timers or Amazon Alexa/Google Home Assistant to activate lights, radios, TV's or other devices in your home that makes it appear someone is inside.
- Trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows so burglars cannot hide in the shadows.

TIME:

Make it time-consuming for a burglar to break into your home by:

- Installing deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and **USE THEM AT ALL TIMES!**
- Install double-sided key locks in doors which contain glass. This will keep a burglar from being able to open the door simply by breaking the glass and reaching through. *(Note: so that everyone in the house can get out in the event of a fire or other emergency, keep the key in a central, designated area.)*
- Place additional, strong locks on your windows and patio doors.
- Replacing door hinge screws with longer, more effect screws that drive deeper into the frame of the home. These screws make it much more difficult to kick open a door.
- Installing a **Door Reinforcement Lock** onto exterior doors. This lock has long screws that go deep into the frame and a locking mechanism that defends against 800lbs of force. *(Found on Amazon for \$10 - \$15)*
- If your home has French Style Doors (the easiest breakable door on a home), consider purchasing French Door Security Kits. *(Found on Amazon or Professional Security Company Sites)*



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NOISE:

- If you and the people in your household are ready, have the time and can afford it, get a dog (*Preferably from a rescue or shelter*). Dogs make noise when they hear something around their home. Remember; you do not need a large attack dog, even a small dog or dogs of any size can create a disturbance with barking that intruders would prefer to avoid.
 - o When on vacation or away from home for extended period of time, consider a “Dog / House Sitter” instead of boarding your animals. This will ensure your dog is still protecting your home while adding another person in the residence as well.
- If you can afford it, install an alarm system that will alert neighbors of a burglar’s presence with loud audio alerts. Most systems can call local police dispatch directly. (Remember to memorize your code and do not share with those outside of your closest, trusted family members. **BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, USE THE ALARM! EVEN WHEN YOU ARE HOME.**)

OTHER TIPS TO PREVENT BURGLARIES:

- Installing cameras on your home. Some security companies offer cameras with your alarm systems, but there are several stand-alone camera systems ranging in different qualities, price ranges, and functions. Most work with smart phones through apps to view real time data and images. (A few top brands are RING Cameras, ARLO Cameras, Google Nest, and others)
- Think like a burglar when viewing your home. “Case” your house and see where the weaknesses in your home’s security lay, then correct those weaknesses.
- Be sure valuables such as guns, electronic devices, jewelry, and expense artwork are not visible from the street.
- Invest in a fire proof safe to house guns, important and sensitive documents, jewelry, and other valuable items.
- Do not leave tools and ladders out which could be used to break into your home.
- Work with your neighbors and get to know them. Organize a CrimeWatch Program to help look after one another.
- While on vacation or gone for an extended period of time, either halt mail services during that period or have someone stop by and regularly check on the home, collect mail, and change lights on and off.
- **DISPLAY YOUR HOUSE NUMBER CLEARLY AND HAVE IT WELL LIT!** This will help police and emergency personnel find your home quickly.



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