

Protect Your Home from Burglary

Burglars enter a house, apartment or condominium every 15 seconds. Are you doing all you can to keep your home safe from burglars? Beat burglars at their game by using the following tips:

- Consider purchasing an alarm System from a reputable vendor who will install an alarm system that fits your needs
- Install deadbolt locks. A locksmith can help you decide on the best lock, and make sure you follow local regulations concerning locks.
- Roughly one-third of all burglaries occur through unlocked doors and windows. Make certain all doors and windows are securely locked and alarm systems are turned on. Keep garage doors closed and locked too.
- Place vertical bolts or a piece of wood or metal rod in the tracks of sliding doors.
- Don't hide extra house keys in obvious places, such as under a doormat or flowerpot.
- Lower the sound on your telephone ringer and answering machine so they can't be heard outside.
- Park a vehicle in your driveway. This not only gives the appearance of an occupied house, but it can prevent burglars from backing up and loading a van.
- Temporarily suspend mail and newspaper deliveries, or arrange to have these items picked up or forwarded to another address.
- Notify the police or a trustworthy neighbor that you will be gone, and ask them to keep a watchful eye on your home.
- Install motion-sensitive lights, and trim trees and shrubs so they don't conceal doors and windows. Privacy is a burglar's accomplice.
- Position all valuables, such as paintings, antiques or coin collections, away from windows.

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