

Home Security Tips

Before you make security improvements, identify those entry points most likely to be used by a burglar. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Which entrances are hidden/out of view from my neighbors?
- If I am locked out of my house, where could I get in without too much difficulty?

Keep in mind that your goal is to make it difficult for a burglar by forcing them to take more time and to make more noise!

- All strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction.
- All exterior doors should fit snugly against the frame and all frames should be free of warping, cracks, and other signs of wear and tear.
- High-risk windows (basement, ground-level, partially or totally secluded, etc.) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion.
- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to allow visibility along the perimeter (particularly entries) of the house.
- All entrances (doors and windows) to your home should be well lit at night.

Territoriality/Defensible Space

Territoriality means showing that your community “owns” your neighborhood. While this includes removing graffiti and keeping buildings and yards maintained, it also refers to small personal touches. Creating flower gardens or boxes, putting out seasonal decorations, or maintaining the plants in traffic circles seems simple, but sends a clear message that people in your neighborhood care and won't tolerate crime in their area.

Put Yourself in a Burglar's Shoes

One thing every homeowner should do at least twice a year is take a walk around and through your property with a close friend or neighbor who is not too familiar with your house. Start outside and ask yourself "how would I best break in? The purpose of not doing it alone is that your pal may spot things you'll overlook. Return the favor and complete a survey for your friend.

- Exterior lighting should allow 100 foot visibility
- Use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
- Use infra-red motion sensor lights on the rear of homes

When living with multiple people, make sure everyone understands the importance of home security. It only takes one person to leave everyone else vulnerable. But don't rely on others; keep your private possessions locked away.

And finally... nothing invites thieves into the house like an open door. If you've ever seen a door left open in your house, PLEASE take 15 minutes to find out about Renter's Insurance! ***There is a good chance that you are covered under your parents' policy*** – if not, it should be very cheap to add you. SHC's home insurance deductible is over \$10,000 per house, meaning your laptop, bike, and camera will not be covered.