

## Home Security

Sometimes it's hard to know if a home is safe or not. This is a checklist provided by the National Crime Prevention Council that will help you to determine if you are living in a secure environment

### **Exterior Doors**

- All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- Reinforce glass panels in or near doors so that they cannot be shattered.
- Entryways have keyed entry locks and study deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, or in a mailbox.

### **Garage and Sliding Door Security**

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.
- The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.
- A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

### **Protecting Windows**

- Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

### **Outdoor Security**

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening -- whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- Our house number is clearly displayed so emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

### **Security When Away From Home**

- At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.
- The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

### **Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property**

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- Firearms are stored unlocked and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computes have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.