



**NOT IF** the burglar comes, but when. Because, say the statistics, the burglar is coming. Down your street. And looking for easy Targets.

Burglars look for easy targets because they're not professionals, as a rule. They're amateurs... looking for easy targets. Enough easy targets to make residential burglary one of the fastest growing crimes in recent years.

This brochure is designed to help you avoid making your home look like an easy target. There are simple, basic security measures that will make you home less inviting and, in so doing, cause the burglar to look elsewhere for an easier target.

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### **Make Your Home Look and Sound Occupied.**

By day, leave drapes and shades in normal position – the way you have them when at home. Don't leave easily movable valuables in sight close to windows or in plain view!

At night, leave on some inner lights – bathrooms and hallways, for example. Consider buying automatic timers that turn lamps on after dark, then off a few hours later or at dawn. These timers can turn a radio on, too, your home sounds occupied.

Never leave garage doors open, especially with no car in sight. This is like a WELCOME sign to burglars. It's best to keep your garage door closed even when you're at home. When leaving for longer periods, don't forget to remove easily stolen objects like a power mower, garden hose, lawn chairs, bicycles and the like from your yard and keep them safely locked up.

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### **Be A Good Neighbor**

Keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and get them to do the same for you.

If you see something suspicious-movement inside when a home should be empty a strange car or truck in the driveway a loiterer-call your local law enforcement agency immediately. Make a reasonable effort to get a good description and license number, without endangering yourself. Burglars have been known to use a truck and openly carry off valuable possessions. If neighbors haven't mentioned moving, be suspicious. Police would rather you called than wished you'd called.

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### **Install Good Locks and Lock Them**

Many homes are guarded only by spring-latch door locks. Also, older doors and frames may have become worn, leaving a pronounced gap that allows easy prying. So be sure to check them, too. There is one lock which crime prevention experts recommend. It is a single cylinder dead-bolt lock with a 1" throw. This type of lock provides better security than what many homes now have. You can get more information from your local Police or Sheriff Crime Prevention Unit.

Besides good locks, it's also a good idea to have a 220 degree wide-angle viewer (peep-hole) in your front door so you can find out who's outside without opening your door to a possibly dangerous stranger. Such viewers are inexpensive and easy to install. They are much better than chain latches, which are easy to force loose. Be sure locks are firmly screwed into solid wood, not just into a light door jamb. The longer the screws and the longer the lock bolt, the safer your home will be. The screws which come in many packages are too short for good security.

For windows, install auxiliary, non-keyed locking devices. They're inexpensive and provide some extra security. Another idea is to get wedge devices that prevent windows from being opened, or allow the window to be opened an inch or two for ventilation but prevent opening them wider. Sliding glass doors are a special problem because they can

be forced open sideways or simply popped out of the track. There are various inexpensive items, such as a Charlie bar or supplemental locks, which will give you better protection. Again, check with your crime prevention officer.

The best locking the world is worthless if it isn't locked. Always lock up, even if you're away from home for only minutes. Houses have been cleaned out while the owner was mowing the lawn or visiting with a neighbor. Remember, a lock is not a lock unless you lock it.

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### **Change Locks At The Drop Of A Threat**

Any licensed locksmith can change the tumblers in your outside door locks quickly and inexpensively. So when you move into a home or apartment, have it done. If you lose a key, change the lock tumbler.

Don't be generous in passing around extra keys. One might end up in the hands of someone you don't trust. Don't leave an "emergency" key under the doormat, on top of the doorframe, or in any other "hiding spot" so well known to burglars.

Keep car keys and house keys separate. This way your house keys are never left in the possession of a stranger when you park your car at a garage or parking lot. Never have a name or license tag attached to your house keys. If keys are lost or stolen, you'll have an unwelcome visitor very quickly.