



City of Greenacres  
Department of Public Safety



**Crime Prevention Tips**

**Home Security**

**Home Burglary Prevention**



When your home is burglarized you lose more than just your property that you have worked so hard to obtain, you lose your peace of mind and in some cases you might jeopardize the safety and welfare of yourself and your family.

Residential burglary is a chronic nationwide problem that is growing. For its victims, it is costly, as well as a potentially dangerous crime which can lead to other crimes.

Fortunately you can prevent burglary because in most cases it is a crime of opportunity committed by persons who are able to gain easy access to your home. You can eliminate the opportunity by making your home as difficult as possible for a burglar to enter and by making it less inviting to the potential criminal.

The time to take the necessary steps to protect your home and family from burglary is before you become a victim and not after the fact. All it takes is a modest investment of your time and not a great deal of money to employ the preventative measures.

Using secure hardware and other preventative measures will serve to deter, delay or help detect a burglar. It could stop an amateur burglar and slow up the experienced one, thus increasing the risk of being caught.

Burglary Prevention is much more than good locks and alarm systems. It is also being aware of your neighbors and neighborhood, such as reporting to police suspicious vehicles and persons seen in your area.

The following information will help make it difficult for a burglar to enter your home. Don't delay in providing your home and family the best protection you can give them. In Florida alone burglaries occur every day and millions of dollars worth of property are lost and a very small percentage is ever recovered and returned to its rightful owner.



## Prevention Tips

### Exterior of Your Home:

- Keep shrubs trimmed away from your windows and doors so you don't provide a convenient hiding place for a burglar.
- Maintain adequate exterior lighting especially on vulnerable access points to your home.
- Don't leave valuables such as lawnmowers, bicycles or tools in your yard or in an unlocked shed or garage. Your tools could be used to break into your home.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked at all times. The door leading from the garage to the house is a favorite access point for a burglar.
- Display house numbers conspicuously and have it well illuminated. This will aid the police, medical or other emergency personnel in finding your home quickly if summoned.
- Never leave any notes outside that can inform a burglar that your house is unoccupied.
- Never hide keys outside your home.

### Closing Your Doors to Burglary:



It is important that all exterior doors be of solid wood construction or metal clad doors. Hollow core doors are not effective deterrents because they can easily be kicked in and broken.

- Make sure that you lock all doors even when gone momentarily.
- The front door should have wide angle 180 degree viewer. Install it for easy viewing of visitors. Do not open the door until you find out who it is. Only open the door if you feel safe about the person that is outside.
- All entryway doors should have a high security deadbolt and a doorknob lock. The deadbolts throw should extend all the way out to lock and extend approximately 1 inch into the doorframe.
- To re-enforce a wood doorframe, take a look at the strike plate. Make sure you have three inch screws securing it to the doorframe.



## Sliding Doors:

Sliding doors can be a weak point to your home. Most of the time the criminal will pry the side latch locks causing them to break. The other way they enter is by lifting the doors from its track.

To prevent removal of the doors, install 1 ¼ pan head sheet metal screws in the upper track. Back them down a little so that the frame just clears the head of the screws.



- Install a pin bolt lock. Close the doors and install the pin lock where the frames meet in the middle.
- Anti Slide Blocks also work well. An anti slide block attaches to the doorframe making it difficult to open.
- Charlie Bar can also be used. The bar is attached to the side frames and fits across the middle of the sliding door running parallel to the floor.

Some people use a wooden dowel in the bottom track but it only works with single sliding doors not double sliding doors. If you use a wooden dowel make sure it is large enough and fits tightly against the door frames. If the dowel is too loose the criminal can slide a tool in between the doors and pop it out of the track.

## Jalousie Doors and Windows:

Jalousie doors and windows are a security risk because a criminal can easily gain entry through them. The best solution is to replace them with a new window or door that does not have a jalousie. If you decide not to replace them consider the following:

- Cover the window or door with a metal mesh and bolt it to the door with carriage bolts.

## Windows:

Today there are many different types of windows that are installed in homes. The most common window is the sliding window. The window is usually secured by a center thumb turn lock, crescent lock or clip locks. You can re-enforce the windows by considering the following:

- Install anti slide blocks or sliding window track locks.
- Make sure all windows are locked before you leave your home.
- Always check the window locks of a child's or teenager's room. Sometimes they will unlock them.



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**Alarm System:**

- Install an alarm system. Have the system monitored by a security company.
- Make sure you alarm all doors and windows.
- Install motion detectors or glass breakage sensors.
- Install an inside siren so the alarm makes plenty of noise when activated.
- Display alarm warning stickers on your doors and windows.



There are many types of alarm systems today. There are systems that come with video surveillance that's capable of recording the images onto a DVD. There are systems that let you monitor your home from where you work on the computer.

**Operation Identification:**

This is a program supported by most police agencies. Engrave your drivers' license, not your social security number, on televisions, stereos, computers, and small electronic appliances. This helps law enforcement identify and locate you if your stolen items are recovered. Photograph your valuables in their locations around your home and make a list of the make, model, and serial numbers. This is very important for proof when filing insurance claims. You should keep this list in a safety deposit box or with a relative for safe keeping. Keep receipts of the larger items in case you need to prove the value of the items for insurance purposes. Photocopy important documents and the contents of your wallet. You will be thankful that you took these steps in case your home is ever destroyed by fire or flood, is ransacked, or if your wallet is lost or stolen.

**Security Survey:**

Have a Security Survey inspection of your home. The Greenacres Department of Public Safety has a Crime Prevention Officer that is certified by the State of Florida to conduct the survey. If you have any questions about the security of your home or if you would like a security survey conducted contact the Crime Prevention Officer R. Warren at 561-642-2133