



Burglary Prevention Home Security Tips



Most burglars look for something worth stealing and easy access combined with low visibility. The average burglar will spend no more than 4 to 5 minutes trying to break into a residence. Make your home a harder target using the tips below.

ALWAYS USE YOUR ALARM SYSTEM. If you have an alarm system, BE SURE TO SET IT WHENEVER YOU GO OUT, even if for a short period of time. Have glass breakers as part of your alarm system. Be sure that all windows and doors are alarmed; several burglary rings operating on the Westside enter premises from a second story window or balcony door.

MAKE IT HARD TO BREAK YOUR GLASS DOORS/WINDOWS. Breaking glass to gain entry is common. Have a protective coating installed on your glass windows and doors. This protective coating makes it more difficult - and time consuming - to break through the glass and gain access.

ADVERTISE YOU HAVE A DOG. Have a dog, and MAKE IT KNOWN you have a dog with signs on your gates. (This also helps in case of fire so first responders know you have a pet who may be in danger.)

LIGHTS! Keep your outdoor areas well-lit at night. Have some interior lighting on timers, so that lights go on and off at different times indoors. Install motion sensor lighting around your home to illuminate normally dark areas around the home. (Be sure they don't shine into your neighbor's house or outward; only downward on your property.) The lights coming on and turning off attract the attention of neighbors. Install these lights at least 8 feet above the ground so they are more difficult to disable. Install the motion detector lights so they light all doors and windows. Doors, since they are the preferred entry point, should be the first priority to illuminate, followed by windows.

CAMERAS! Cameras help "harden the target," the target being your home. Video surveillance helps with arrests and gets the neighborhood a bad reputation with would-be thieves. Use a wired camera when possible; wireless cameras can be jammed by the burglars. Consult your security company.

MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HOME: If you're going away for a week, ask a neighbor or security patrol to pick up your mail, packages, and newspapers so your home does not look vacant. Make your house look the same whether you are away or at home. Consider leaving a television on while you are out, so that the residence sounds occupied. Use a timer for lights inside the home or special lightbulbs that can be programmed to go on via an app such as Lutron or Hue or Alexa.

SECURE YOUR VALUABLES. Thieves are targeting cash, jewelry, watches, expensive handbags and weapons. If you have a home safe, be sure it is BOLTED DOWN; consider multiple safes, and in locations other than bedrooms. Recent burglaries show the criminals go straight to the master bedroom.

APPLE AIR TAGS. Place tracking devices, such as Apple Air Tags, in your safe and in any expensive handbags. Some stolen property has been able to be tracked and recovered from the use of these



Burglary Prevention Home Security Tips



devices. Do not name these devices “safe” or “handbag.” It is possible the burglars will have an alert if an air tag is nearby. A pet’s name would garner less attention.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE. Keep a list, with serial numbers, along with photos, of all watches and jewelry pieces, so that when stolen property is recovered, it can be matched back to its owner.

SCARE THEM OFF. If someone breaks into your home, make noise. Typically, burglars do not want confrontation and will run if someone is in the home.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR. Stay in touch with your neighbors. WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER IS VITAL TO MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE.

BACKYARD ACCESS. Some of the burglaries involve the suspects entering from someone else's yard through a backyard or side yard. Use environmental barriers, such as thorny plants, that make entering the backyard or side yard more difficult. Some residents have installed bird spikes on top of their fences to deter criminals. Remove bushes and shrubs from around the house, especially under windows and next to doors. If you DO have shrubs and bushes, select ones with thorns to deter potential intruders from hiding in. Keep your yard free of overgrowth. Prune lower branches off trees near your house if they could help a burglar gain access to a second story window.

BEWARE OF DRONES AND CAMERAS WATCHING YOUR PROPERTY. Some burglars are watching neighborhoods via drones. If you see a drone looking at your property and your neighbors' properties, let LAPD know through the non-emergency line: 1-800-ASK-LAPD, and by email to our Senior Lead Officer Matt Kirk. Hollywood burglary detectives report that some burglars have set up cameras in potential victims' hillside yards. Be mindful of your property and if you find a camera or other device, report it to LAPD and Senior Lead Officer Matt Kirk.

GATE, DOOR AND WINDOW LOCKS: Ensure that all doors and windows are safeguarded with sturdy secure locks as well as second locking mechanisms. Placing a rod in the track to prevent it from opening can act as a second line of defense for sliding doors and windows. Second floor windows are also vulnerable as well as side doors and garage doors. Ensure that all gates and access points to the side or rear of the residence are locked and secured. Secure your patio door with a pin-type lock, a key lock, or a steel rod inserted into the door channel. Secure your electrical panel. Some thieves will turn off power to the house to try to disable any alarm system and turn off all lights.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN BURGLARIZED. If you are a victim of a crime in progress, call 911 to get immediate help. If you are a victim of a crime that has occurred while you are away and you are not in danger, please call the non-emergency police line 1-877-ASK-LAPD (275-5273). The dispatcher will send police officers out to take a report and collect any evidence. Only victims of a crime can file a report. Burglaries require officers to come to your house to take the report. If your cameras show someone attempted to break into your house, call the non-emergency line to report it. The dispatcher will ascertain whether someone will come out to collect any evidence.