

## Neighborhood Crime Watch Program HOME SECURITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

An important step in preventing burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. A careful inspection can indicate features which would make entry either easy or difficult for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that home security can be improved. Take a hard look at entry points in your residence and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability.

A security inspection begins at the front door and goes on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights and landscaping. Most security modifications that you might consider making are simple and quite cost effective.

Disclaimer: The following recommendations in no way ensure that this residence will be one hundred percent burglar proof, but these are proven techniques to make your home more secure and a more difficult target for burglars.

#### EXTERIOR DOORS & ENVIRONMENT:

**Apply these security recommendations to all exterior doors including entrances from garage/ basement to house.**

1. Is house address clearly posted and lit to aid emergency response? Yes  No
2. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? (including doors between garage/basement & house) Yes  No
3. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? Yes  No
4. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? Yes  No
5. Are there windows/glass panels in the door within 40 inches of the lock? Yes  No
6. If there are no windows in or near door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device? Yes  No
7. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw? (including door from garage/basement to home) Yes  No
8. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 2 ½ -3 inch screws? (recommend 2 long screws in each hinge also) Yes  No

Entrances continued

9. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at the doorway? Yes  No
10. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock? Yes  No

**Look at your Home from the Outside-In**

11. Is the exterior of the front/rear entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt bulb? (consider motion detection lights) Yes  No
12. Can front/rear entrance be easily observed from street or other homes or a public area? Yes  No
13. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view of the street, other homes or public areas? Yes  No

\*Security Tip: Tools, ladders and other equipment should always be secured in the garage and not left laying around on premises.

**SLIDING GLASS DOORS & WINDOWS:**

1. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Do windows/sliding doors close snugly? (particularly ground floor windows) Yes  No
2. Can the sliding panel be lifted out of the track? (consider drilling & pinning/ screws in the top track) Yes  No
3. Is there a dowel or “charlie bar” in the bottom of track to prevent horizontal movement? Yes  No
4. Are exterior areas of windows free from a concealing structure or landscaping? Yes  No

\* Security Tip: Cover with blinds or curtains

## GARAGES

\*Security tips:

Double-check to ensure garage door is closed when not in use.

If there are ground-level windows in your garage they should be covered with curtain or blind to prevent someone from looking in.

Windows in an exterior door or glass within 40" of a deadbolt lock are good candidates for Security Film.

Unplug garage door opener when away from home for vacation or extended period of time.

## MISCELLANEOUS HOME SAFETY:

Smoke Detector:

Check each one in the home. Test to ensure they are functioning.

If the device uses batteries, check to see if they need replacing.

Recommend testing when setting clocks for Daylights Savings.

Fire Extinguisher:

You should have one in the garage and a small one in or near the kitchen.

Consider putting one under your bed. Check the gauges to see if they are well charged.

Conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_