How To Improve Your Home Security

Things you can do to keep out unwanted intruders.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com

Copyright 2010 - present
Introduction

It’s been widely reported that a home burglary occurs every 12 seconds. As such, the chances of your own home actually being at risk are significant, regardless where you live.

When people think of a break-in, they tend to think of someone gaining random entry into their home by breaking glass or smashing down doors. Yet there are certain things that could actually extend an invitation to intruders to make an attempt at getting into your home, in particular.

There are many places in a home that are vulnerable to attack from an intruder, so setting up a routine of periodically checking the following items will minimize your exposure to a break-in.

Keys

Although it may seem like a good idea, lending keys to family and friends, as well as those people who carry out work in your home, greatly increases the chances of your keys being placed into the wrong hands. Although the people you provide a key to might be completely trustworthy, you cannot control where the keys go once they are out of your hands, and the chances of them being duplicated are greatly increased. It’s very important that you give great consideration about who has copies of your keys. Never place keys in those “secret places” outside the home, as the smart burglar will look there first.

Locks

Doors that have knob or handle locks are very easy for a burglar to defeat, as all he requires is a plastic credit card or something similar to get past them. Therefore, it’s wise to install (and use) good quality deadbolts on the entry points into your home. Statistics show that most homes that have been invaded had deadbolts, but they weren’t locked at the time of the burglary.

Door Entryways

Although you may have very good locks installed on all your exterior doors, they are only as effective as the strength of the door, hinges AND the door frame. The weakest area on most doors is not the locks or hinges, but the door frame in
the area where the strike plate is located. Seventy-three percent of all burglars gain access to a property through a door entry way, and 80% of the time DOOR FRAME FAILURE is the cause.

You can easily cure this problem by installing a product such as the Door Security Pro Door Security Guard on all your exterior doors. Beefing up your wooden door frames is the #1 best (and least expensive) thing you can do to improve the security of your home.

**Sliding Patio Doors**

Often, these types of entry doors have several distinct disadvantages to them when compared to other types of entry doors. The main problem is that they usually come with unsophisticated locks installed on them. Some of the older models, unfortunately, can easily be lifted off of their sliding tracks, which provide any knowledgeable intruder with a very quick and simple way of gaining access to a home.

**Windows**

Windows that are left open and unattended not only provide intruders with easy access, but they allow them to quickly view what is available to them.

**Gardens**

Both shrubbery and trees allow intruders to gain access to your property. Not only do they provide concealment, but can also provide intruders a physical way to gain access to your home.

Now that we’ve introduced some general ideas about shielding your home from intruders, let’s take a closer look at home security and making your home less of a target for a break-in.

**Courtesy of:**

[Door Security Pro](www.DoorSecurityPro.com)
Chapter 1

Just How Secure Is Your Home?

Most everyone thinks that their home is fairly secure. Today, most homes are fitted with good quality doors and windows which have good locks and deadbolts installed. Often, when going out in the evening, people will draw the curtains and leave a few lights on to give the appearance that there is someone inside. However, there are occasions during the summer when it’s still light outside and you decide not to do this. Unfortunately, it is during these times that you are providing one of the best opportunities to a would-be burglar to gain access to your home.

Rather than trying to gain access through the front door and be seen by your neighbours, a burglar will try to gain access to your property through the back door. Unfortunately, a burglar can typically gain access to your home very quickly without your neighbours becoming aware that anything has occurred.

When this type of break in occurs the burglar will only take valuables that are easy to carry, in most cases placing your items inside a pillowcase. Generally, they will often only steal much larger items like TV’s, DVD players and stereos if they feel that they have enough time and are not likely to be spotted any time soon.

Therefore, whenever you leave your home for any length of time, both during the day time, and at night, it is wise that you make sure everything is secure and that nothing can be seen that is likely to tempt the burglar to try to gain entry to your property.

Also, if you are having any work carried out on your home, it is not a good idea to leave the workmen alone in the home. I know the majority of workmen today can be trusted, but there are going to be occasions when the company you are using is new to you, and you have no idea of the trustworthiness of the people that they employ. Therefore, when having work carried out in your home, arrange for yourself, a partner, a close friend or a family member to supervise them while they are in your home.
Unfortunately a lot of people today will often arrange to install a burglar alarm or home security system after an intruder has gained entry to their property. This is a bit like closing the stable door after the horse has escaped. It is therefore important that you start looking at ways to improve your home security to ensure that you do not become just another statistic.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com
Chapter 2

Steps To Help Improve Your Home Security

When they consider improving the security to their home, most people think about getting an alarm or security system installed. Although they do play a major role in helping to ensure that an intruder is less likely to try to gain access to your home, there are other things that you can do which take very little effort and do not cost much to implement. Below we provide you with a number of things that you can do to help improve the security to your home, immediately.

Keys

Never leave keys hidden outside. If you are someone who likes to leave a key for their home hidden under the doormat or on top of the door frame, then you are inviting someone to break in. In fact, this practice is so common that the first thing a burglar will do is to look near the home to see whether a key can be found to gain entry quickly and without causing too much disturbance.

If you must do so, then hide the key in a place that is far from your home, and in a location where you think an intruder is unlikely to look for it.

Windows

One of the easiest and most common ways that intruders gain access to a home is through a window which has either been left unlocked or is cracked open. People are notorious for leaving second story windows unlocked or open, and burglars know this. So if you are someone who likes the fresh air, then at minimum fit them with safety devices which will allow them to open only part way, but not enough so that an intruder can actually climb through the window. Additionally, when you leave home for any amount of time, make certain that all your windows have been shut AND locked.
Gardens

Almost every house you pass will have some kind of shrubbery or trees which are located near windows and access points. These areas provide any would-be burglar with great places to hide while they try to gain entry into your home.

Therefore, look at your home as a burglar would. Examine which shrubs and/or trees you have that can act as camouflage for burglars. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How easy would it be for someone to get close to my home without being seen by others?

2. Would someone potentially be able to gain access to an upper floor of my house because of a tree that is close to my house?

It is extremely important that you eliminate any potential hiding places or ways for them to gain access to your property without being seen. Any trees that are very close to your home should be well pruned or cut back to ensure that there are no branches within easy reach to areas of the upper floors of your home. Keep all bushes and shrubs at a level that there is no chance for an intruder to be able to hide behind or in them. Certainly, prevention is the best way of ensuring that your home remains safe at all times.

If you really feel it’s necessary to plant shrubs or bushes near your house, consider those with thorns, like a rose bush. Few burglars are willing to risk their personal health (not to mention the kind of evidence this would leave behind) when there are easier houses to vandalize.

Lighting

Most property break-ins occur during the darkest hours, as the darkness dramatically helps to conceal the intruder from being seen. Therefore, having strategically positioned lights installed is an ideal deterrent to any would-be intruder. A great way of deterring intruders is to install motion-activated detection lights. These lights are relatively inexpensive, easy to install and a very effective way of helping to prevent a break-in from occurring.
Keep Your Possessions Out of Sight

It is best not to advertise that you have valuable items in your home. For example, if you have a nice car or motorcycle and you own a garage, then make sure you park the vehicle inside at night. Unfortunately, a lot of burglars and intruders who see a home with a nice car parked outside are more likely to take chances and move in closer to see what else is on view for them to take. Also, close your blinds or invest in opaque curtains so that it makes it much harder for the would-be burglar or intruder to see what you have inside. When you are at home, make sure that as soon as it starts to get dark outside, you close your curtains or shades, as this provides them with far less opportunity to see what’s in your home.

Above, we have provided you with a few simple ideas which can help to ensure that the level of security on your home is increased. The great thing about these particular ideas are that they are very easy to implement, and are not actually going to cost you very much.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com
Chapter 3

Ways To Prevent a Break-in In Your Home

Most people feel that “it won’t happen here” – that they are never going to be the victim of an intruder. But, unfortunately, where burglars are concerned, they have no regard for you or your family. What they are looking for is a home in which they can easily gain access and take whatever they like in the least amount of time, with the least amount of resistance.

You **should be worried** that your home will be the next target of a break-in and take appropriate steps to prevent it. There are some easy steps that you can take to help prevent it from occurring. Although the tips listed below will definitely help to prevent a break-in, they will not actually stop the most determined of burglars from gaining access into your home. You should also have an emergency escape plan, as a good run is always better than a bad stand.

Doors

Most doors have the old-style, standard, short stem deadbolts installed on them. You should install the newer designs which have much longer deadbolt stems. This will make it much more difficult for a burglar to break a door down. Also, if you can afford to, replace all the entry doors with much sturdier ones such as the new solid core metal doors. If you want wooden doors, there are some on the market that come with metal reinforcements inside them. Especially look at not just reinforcing your doors, but also strengthening the strike plate on the door frame. You should reinforce all your door frames by installing a product such as the Door Security Pro Door Security Guard on all your exterior entry doors. They’re available online from: www.DoorSecurityPro.com. They also work on double doors and French doors.

As for sliding glass patio doors, a quick and simple way of securing them is by placing a sawed-off broom handle or a metal pole in the track which prevents the door from opening. Then, the only way a burglar would be able to gain access to
your home through that door is by smashing the glass—something they won’t typically do, as it makes too much noise. You can also use this method on sliding windows. One other consideration is to install high security window or glass film on vulnerable areas of glass.

**Burglar Alarms and Home Security Systems**

Only use an alarm system that has come from a source that you trust, or from a manufacturer who is well known to you. Position several signs around your property to show that you have a security system in place. Put warning stickers on all your exterior doors as this will often deter a burglar very quickly from trying to break into your home. You can either install such systems yourself (there are some good options are available at: [http://Home-Security-System.notlong.com](http://Home-Security-System.notlong.com)), or arrange to have a professional alarm company install it for you, but check their credentials and obtain references first. Also, consider having a professionally monitored alarm system installed, such as those supplied by ADT or Broadview. They are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just keep in mind that burglar alarms don’t keep burglars out, they just let you know when someone is already in or is seriously trying.

**Pets**

Having a pet that is very loud when it’s alarmed or frightened is a great deterrent to would-be intruders. Often, a barking dog or a screaming bird will prevent a typical burglar from even trying to invade your home, whether you are in it or not. Burglars hate noise.

When it comes to making your home more secure, use common sense. Look closely at those areas of your home which you feel are most vulnerable and increase the amount of security at those points. But, whatever type of security improvements you decide to make to your home, you must remember to keep them within the requirements of the law as you do not want to find yourself faced with a lawsuit by a burglar who was injured on your property. Yes, this DOES happen. You may not use anything that is intended to hurt someone. For example, you cannot set up a booby trap on a door where the intention is to cause someone bodily harm even if that someone is a burglar whose intention may be to hurt you. Ridiculous, but true.

**Courtesy of:**

[Door Security Pro](http://DoorSecurityPro.com)
Often, the locks that are typically installed on doors and windows will provide very little real protection against a burglar breaking into your home. In fact, most professional burglars can easily gain access to a person’s home very quickly just by using a plastic credit card or a screwdriver.

Below is some helpful information about the different kinds of locks that you should consider having installed on your home, by either yourself or an accredited locksmith. By doing this, you will be making your home much more secure, and also providing far less opportunities for a burglar to break-in.

**Cylinder Deadbolts**

The “long-stem” version of this type of door lock actually provides a great deal of protection, especially when used in conjunction with a good quality door handle with a lock. These are most often surface mounted cylinder deadbolts and can easily be mounted on any kind of door in a matter of minutes. However, surface-mounted cylinder deadbolts do not offer the same kind of protection as those that are mounted within the door and frame.

**Tubular Deadbolts**

These types of locks add more protection to your home, without looking unsightly, and they can be installed in any door. They often require a person to have a key in order to unlock from either side. Because this may cause problems if you are trying to leave in an emergency, consider models that can be opened without an inside key.

The reason why these types of locks are so effective is that, when in the locked position, they have a bolt which comes through several holes before it goes into the strike plate. This type of lock makes it more difficult for a door to be jimmed with a credit card, for example.
Take the time to examine the locks you already have in your home and, if you find them to be old, wearing out or they have failed, then it is time to replace them. In order to provide better protection for your home, install either new or additional locks as soon as possible (immediately preferably). Although you may consider this to be a waste of time and money, which would you prefer: Knowing that your home is secure and everything is well protected, or letting any burglar know that they can gain access to your home anytime that they want to.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com
Chapter 5

How To Make Your Windows More Secure

Certainly, most types of glass windows can easily be shattered just like any other form of glass. But any burglar, given the choice, would prefer the quietest way of gaining access to a property, without having to resort to such a noisy method as breaking glass.

When breaking glass, a burglar knows that it makes a very distinctive noise, and is therefore likely to attract unwanted attention. There is also a high risk of them cutting themselves while they are breaking-in with an increased chance leaving their DNA at the crime scene.

Although some burglars will break windows in order to gain access to people’s homes, most prefer to only use a window which is already open or unlocked. The problem is that in a lot of home burglaries, the burglar has not even had to try to open one, as the home owner has left one open (whether by mistake or deliberately).

As is often is the case with people who do have locks on their windows, the locks are very weak and, in a lot of cases, people only have latches fitted to their windows. With these installed, a burglar will usually have no difficulty at all in breaking in to a person’s home.

However, today there are plenty of good quality window locks available which a person can install and they don’t cost an arm and a leg. Although there are plenty of window locks available, which are the right ones for your home in order to protect your windows from being a potential access point for a burglar? Below are the various types of window locks a person can now use.

**Thumb Turn Locks**

These types of locks are not secured using a key, and are great way of preventing
the windows on your home from being opened from the outside. The only way a burglar could open one of these would be by smashing the glass to get to the lock itself, and then operating it. Although they may have to smash the glass to gain access to the lock, once they have, they will lessen their chances of being cut by any glass afterwards because they can then open the window completely.

**Key Locks**

These are the best kind of locks for helping to secure windows. It is best that you remove the key from the lock once the window has been closed, but ensure that it is in a location where it can easily be reached, and ensure that all members of the family know exactly where it is. You don’t want any members of your family being caught when there is a fire in the home without the key to open the window. You may also designate an escape route from your property in case of a fire or other emergency. Check local building codes that may prevent you from fitting a key lock to a window in such an escape route.

Another reason for fitting key locks to windows, especially on the upper floors of your home, is to prevent young children from falling out of them. Unfortunately, as children grow older, they become more inquisitive, and it will only take seconds for them to open a window that has only a cheap latch.

The great thing about installing good quality window locks in your home is that they are visible to those outside your home. Once a burglar sees these, he then knows what he is going to be facing, and likely will go somewhere else.

You may well find that you might have to fit more than one lock on each window, but this will depend on the size. Therefore, the larger the window, then the more strain is going to be put on the lock as the burglar attempts to gain access by forcing it. Also do not forget to place locks on even small windows you may have in your home, as there are some burglars who can gain access through very small spaces, or who will use a child as an accomplice.

Also, it is important to install window locks on the upper floors of your home. Remember, a burglar will use a ladder if necessary, and often it has either come from your own backyard, or that of your neighbours. The chances of a burglar going elsewhere are increased if you have good quality window locks fitted on your own home.

---

Courtesy of:

[Door Security Pro](http://www.DoorSecurityPro.com)
Chapter 6

Lights Are a Great Deterrent

One of the best deterrents to a burglary is lighting. You have the choice of either mounting floodlights or spotlights at each corner of your home, which will then flood the walls of the property and provide no shadow or area where a burglar can sit or stand, undetected. All lights are relatively easy to install, and can be quite inexpensive to buy, but they are an extremely effective way of helping to prevent a break in from occurring at your home.

Spotlights

These can either be single or double models, but generally most security consultants will suggest that you have the double versions installed.

Floodlights

As with the spotlights, these come in single and double models, and again it is recommended that you install a double floodlight. This type of light actually provides more light around a property than a spotlight, as spotlights are directed towards a particular area.

Whichever kind of light you decide to install outside your home, it is best that you place them high enough so that a burglar cannot easily gain access to them. Generally, spotlights are mounted about half way up the sides of a home, while a floodlight can be mounted much higher up and at the end of the house.

When installing your lights, you should mount them at the corners, or ends, of your home. They should be placed in such a way that they illuminate the various areas of your yard where a burglar is likely to hide, so aim them towards bushes, walls, screens and trees. Also, mount lights in locations where a burglar can hide, such as a separate garage, shed or gazebo.

Today, most spotlights and floodlights can actually be directly wired into the wiring system that you already have in your home. If you are unsure what you
need to do, you can hire a qualified electrician who will be able to install the wiring for you.

When it actually comes to installing any kind of external lighting, you should install as many as you possibly can without actually causing a nuisance to your neighbours. Plug-in timers which can turn the lights on and off while you are away from the property can also be effective. When using timers, it is best to ensure that you set them so that they do not all come on at once or at the same time each day. Instead, set them at various intervals. By varying the times, it appears that there is someone in the home at all times.

For outside lights, especially if you use spotlights, you can get automatic timers installed into the main power line to your home. Through these timers, a person can then set the lights to come on at set intervals. However, these kinds of timers can only be installed by a qualified electrician.

Certainly, installing good quality lighting to the outside of your home is one of the most inexpensive, yet very effective ways of helping to reduce the chances of a break-in occurring in your home. Note that it is important to replace burnt out bulbs, or else your efforts will become completely ineffective in helping to prevent a break-in.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com
Chapter 7

Some Simple Door Alarm Systems

There are different kinds of battery-operated door alarms which can now be installed on the doors in your home. These work on the principle that, as soon as the door is opened or abruptly attacked, the alarm goes off. Once it has been triggered, it is loud enough to wake up anyone inside the house and is also a great way of scaring off a burglar.

It is important, however, that the alarm you do install is a good quality one and will work for extended periods. Also, you should only use high quality batteries in the alarm so it remains functioning correctly. Obviously, a dead battery won’t protect your home.

There are also ultrasonic alarm devices available for doors which, although expensive compared to the battery operated alarms, are very effective. This type of alarm is placed in the corner of a room and its transmitter and receiver saturate the room with ultrasonic sound waves. When these waves are broken, the alarm is triggered. Once triggered, this type of system can turn a light on, or sound an alarm, or do both at once.

You may also want to consider a wireless intercom unit in your home as this allows you to hear certain key noises if they occur around the home. These systems require no wiring and can be plugged directly into an electrical socket in any room of the home. Also, these systems allow a person to communicate with people in other rooms in the house, as well as allowing you to hear what is happening throughout the house.

The great thing about many of these systems is that they are inexpensive and quite easy to install. If you are unsure about what you are doing, and where exactly you should be installing them, contact a reputable home security service, and they should be able to provide you with the assistance that you require.

Courtesy of:
Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com
Conclusion

Our homes contain items that are extremely valuable to us and, in some cases, irreplaceable. It only makes sense that we should ensure that our home is well protected against invasion.

In this guide we have provided you with some very simple ways of helping to make sure your home is much more secure and will, and which hopefully help to prevent a burglar from seeing your home as an easy opportunity to take your valuable possessions.

Adding multiple home security devices (and possibly a burglar alarm) helps to ensure that the chances of your home being broken into are greatly reduced. But at the end of the day, they will also provide you with the peace of mind that you would not otherwise have if you had not taken the appropriate measures to safeguard your home.

Hopefully some of the ideas we have presented in this guide will help you to find multiple ways to improve your home security. This will not only make your home secure, but ensures that those who live there are much more safe and secure.

Burglars are opportunists—they look for homes that they feel offer them the best opportunity to get in and out without ever being seen or caught.

It is very important that you take time to look at your property as if you were a burglar and make improvements to those areas that you feel are vulnerable.

Please Feel Free to Pass This Guide On To Your Family and Friends - They’ll appreciate Your Concern!

Courtesy of: Door Security Pro
www.DoorSecurityPro.com