

Burglary Prevention

Homes and apartments in the U.S. are struck by burglars on the average of **once every 15 seconds**. If the burglar picks your place instead of the one next door, you probably helped invite him there.

Despite all the publicity about complex burglary prevention systems, the rules for protecting your home are quite simple and basic. The best precautionary measures you can take involve old-fashioned common sense and good, modern locks. This handout has examples of both common sense and good locks.

An inadequate lock is usually because the owner is not familiar with lockset security features. Consult a locksmith if you have weak locks or go to a hardware store and look for the locks that are suggested in this brochure.

An inexpensive precautionary measure most homeowners can take is to check and replace the screws in the strike place of a lock if they need it. The strike plate should have extra long screws which pass through the casing and into the 2 x 4's which hold the door frame.

Use the check list below to improve home security and take part in Operation Identification. While you can't make your home absolutely burglar-proof, you can make entry so difficult that a burglar will go elsewhere to find an easier victim.

- Deadlocking slidebolts on all springlatch locks
- Can you lock your outside doors, all your windows and your garage door?
- Double cylinder locks on doors with glass or replace glass with unbreakable acrylic
- Anti-slide protection on the sliding glass doors
- Security pins on window locks on double hung windows
- Exterior lighting on entrances to the home, motion-sensor lights in backyard
- Wide angle viewer on the solid doors
- Leave a light on and the radio playing when you are out at night
- Is your house number clearly visible at night from the street?
- Photos or video taken of the items of value such as jewelry, furs, antiques, collectibles and other hard to describe things
- Do you know if a neighbor will call the police or fire if there is something wrong with your home?
- Take part in Operation Identification and mark items with your driver's license number.