



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BURGLARY

SECURITY: Don't Be The Easy Target!

Burglars like easy targets. They will move on to an easier target if it looks like they will have to work too hard. Here are some ways you can be a hard target: Make sure you always lock your doors and windows, this includes your garage and tool sheds. Keep track of your spare keys. Make sure all your spare keys are secured or left with someone you trust. Have a dog. You don't need a vicious guard dog. Most house dogs are a deterrent to burglars. If your finances allow, invest in an alarm system and impact resistant glass for your windows. In the off season, put that game trail camera to use in your own back yard.

PRIVACY: Loose Lips Sink Ships.

Burglars like to get the most bang for YOUR buck. If they know they can score big at your place, that's where they'll go. While in public, don't talk about the valuable things you have at your house. Don't flaunt large amounts of cash or other valuables. Be aware of the trash you put out, such as a big screen TV box. Hide your valuables in unexpected places throughout your house where burglars are unlikely to search for them. Don't leave expensive items on the seat of your car when you are away.

Also, be careful about "checking in" or posting where you are, or what you are doing on social media. Social media can be a sign that says "I'm not home, come steal my stuff."

APPEARANCE: Don't Mess With Me!

This comes back to not looking like an easy target. Use outside lights around windows and doors. Have signs such as "This House Protected By...." or "Beware of Dog" even if you don't have an alarm system or a dog. You also can keep a dog bowl outside for all would-be burglars to see.

When you're not home, place lights, radios, and other media on random timers. Arrange for someone you trust to pick up your mail, mow your lawn, shovel snow, put out your garbage can, and anything else to make it look like someone is home.

Evaluate your property for hiding places. If you see some place where burglars can hide from a helpful neighbor or passersby, you may want to consider changing things a bit. Keep bushes and hedges trimmed low. Keep trees pruned. Burglars are like cockroaches, so don't give them a place to hide.

PARTNER UP: United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

Get to know your neighbors; they are your best allies. You could plan a community barbeque or other event. The people in your neighborhood know who does not belong there. The better relationship you have with them, the more likely they are going to help you out when they see that suspicious person around your property or vehicle.

By following these simple guidelines, you can greatly reduce your risk of burglary. If you have any questions about becoming burglar resistant, please contact your local police department. Also, there are many websites and books you can read that provide information on how to reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim of burglary, or any other crime.

