

**Public  
Advisory**

Rev. 10/14/07

# **MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE**

## **Burglary Prevention Checklist**

Burglary is a major crime and a significant threat to homeowners. Although statistics show that most burglaries occur in single home residences, people who live in multi-family dwellings such as condominiums and apartment buildings are also at risk.

Burglary prevention consists of more than having a burglar alarm system. To help reduce the risk of being the victim of a burglary, use the enclosed "Burglary Prevention Checklist".



**M**ost burglaries are crimes of opportunity.  
**By making the opportunity less attractive, there is a better chance that your home will not be a target.**

## **What burglars look for:**

*Burglars look for houses that have:*

- The appearance of being unoccupied.
- No lights on and are dark at sunset.
- No car in the driveway.
- Doors and windows blocked by shrubbery.
- Mail sticking out of the mailbox.
- Papers on the front lawn or stoop.
- Curtains that are closed during the daylight hours.
- Outside alarm siren boxes.

## **“Target Hardening” your home:**

*To help prevent your home from becoming a target:*

- Walk around your home.
- Make a list for easy points of entry for an intruder.
- Take care of the problems.

***Even if you have an alarm system, be alert when leaving or entering your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, report it to the police immediately.***

# Burglary Prevention Checklist

## Securing the *outside* of your home.

- ☐ Prune overgrown shrubbery that hides windows and doors.
- ☐ Make alarm stickers visible on doors and windows; they should be easily seen from the street and sidewalk.
- ☐ Keep a car in the driveway, if possible.
- ☐ Place a dog bowl or dog chain on your property to give the appearance of canine security.
- ☐ Do not have packages left in the doorway all day; arrange for a delivery time when you or a neighbor can pick them up.
- ☐ Do not keep garbage cans at the curb all day; if you cannot stay home, use plastic bags instead of garbage cans.
- ☐ Eliminate the outside mailbox; insert a mail slot in the front door or garage.
- ☐ Install outside motion detection lights at the corner of your home and high enough so that the intruder is unable to unscrew the bulbs.
- ☐ Have outside doors of solid core of metal clad; steel doors and frames are the most secure while hollow doors with wood frames are easily kicked in.

## Burglary Prevention Checklist *(cont'd)*

**Securing points of entry** into your home.

- ☐ Do not have front doors with side glass panels since they are easy to break and allow the intruder to reach inside and unlock the door.
- ☐ Use dead bolts with a one-inch throw since the mechanism is difficult to pry or jimmy open.
- ☐ Ensure that sliding glass doors and windows have metal pins or a metal bar installed to prevent being pried open.
- ☐ Set inside lights on timers to turn them on at dusk.
- ☐ Do not place valuables in bureau drawers in the master bedroom; this is the first area where a burglar looks. Lock valuables in the attic or basement.
- ☐ Mark valuables with your driver's license number to make them easy to trace if found on a burglar.

***To help prevent your home from becoming a target:***

- ***Walk around your home.***
- ***Make a list for easy points of entry***
- ***Take care of the problems.***

# Burglary Prevention Checklist *(cont'd)*

## Securing the *inside* of your home.

- ☐ Even if you have an alarm system, be alert when leaving or entering your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, report it to the police immediately.

## Notes:

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**B**urglary prevention is an ongoing pursuit. The Nassau County Police Department suggests that you keep this checklist handy for future inspections of your home.

**"MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE:  
Burglary Prevention Checklist"**  
offers general tips and suggestions.

For further information or to arrange for a burglary prevention presentation for community organizations call:

**NCPD Public Information Office at 516.573.7135**

or the

**NCPD Crimes Against Property Squad at 516.573.5275.**

For a security survey of your home,  
contact your local precinct.

**For Precinct locations, see inside back cover.**

**In an emergency, dial 911.**

**"MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE: Burglary Prevention Checklist"**  
**is one in a series of public advisories published and disseminated by the**  
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**Mineola, NY 11501**

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