

# 6 Safety Tips Burglars Don't Want You To Know

To keep your home safe from a burglar, you must think like one and look at your home from a burglar's perspective. Learning how burglars evaluate houses can make it easier to develop useful safety measures and successfully keep them from breaking in.

First, you must ask the following questions:

- Is the house as secure as it can be?
- Are there areas on the property that tell burglars your home is a good one to break into?

## How Does a Burglar Target You?

The average burglars wants an easy target to rob. They want to be in and out of the target house as quickly as possible without drawing attention to themselves. A good burglar will spend hours searching many neighborhoods for the right house(s) to rob.

Here are six things burglars will look at to determine if it is worth their time and effort to break in and rip you off.

### 1. Does the Home Have a Security System?

Is the home protected by a premium alarm system that is monitored by a reputable bonded company, or did the property owner buy a cheap alarm system that is missing vital components? A high quality alarm system includes the following:

- Door and window contacts that include crawl space entrance doorways.
- The use of hidden or obvious cameras both inside and

out.

- Motion activated exterior lights.
- Motion activated interior alarms.
- The Security Company's sign should be posted in the yard.

Other Alarm Oriented Assets that May Help:

- No Trespassing signs or [Beware of Dog](#) signs posted on the property.
- Homeowner's vehicles have gun club or hunting club decals on them.
- A secondary alarm or panic button that remains active even when you are in the home.

## **2. Burglar-Ready Landscaping**

Most burglars like plenty of [tall shrubs in front of window and doorways](#). This gives them a chance to creep up to your home and hide while they gain information about your movements.

Tall shrubs in front of windows and doorways also make excellent hide-a-ways for burglars to work unnoticed by the neighbors or anyone driving by.

Burglars also like to see privacy fences, tall hedge fences, and stone or brick walls as boundary or secondary walls. These kinds of fences practically scream to burglars that you have valuables inside that are worth stealing.

Fences give property owners a false sense of security that is not so different from the way gun control advocates get lulled into believing that making criminals of innocent people will stop tangibly violent crimes from happening. To the burglar, fences (like gun control laws) are a blessing because they feel secure enough to enter your home to steal or do worse.

*Video first seen on [LBPD Media Relations](#).*

### **3. Burglar's Look for Sheds and Out Buildings**

If you as the property owner get lax and do not try to keep these areas secured you are inviting a burglar to pay you a visit. Not only will they think the outer buildings are easy to rob, they will figure that other areas of your property may be easier to get into with things they find in these buildings.

For example, a burglar will use your own ladder or garden tools to enter an upper story window that may have fewer theft deterrents.

- These buildings, all entrances, and windows should be kept locked up and on the alarm system.
- All garden and hand tools must be kept out of sight and secured.
- All power mowers and tillers must be locked and secured in sheds.
- Work ladders should be kept chained down in these building and never left outside in plain sight or unlocked.

### **4. Can Burglar's Easily Determine When to Strike?**

Most people are creatures of habit. They set up routines in their daily life and seldom change them. By watching the neighborhood, the burglar will know when to strike and when not to.

Sadly, many people today do not really know their neighbors or do not wish to get involved with other people's problems. This is an open invitation to robbers because they figure if you aren't home, no one else is likely to notice someone in your yard or entering your home.

Another way to let burglars know that no one is going to be home on certain dates and times is when the homeowner posts on Facebook, Twitter, or some other social network. Once they

know the family will be away on vacation, who will be going with them, how long they will be gone, and where they are going, rest assured that your home will be penciled in for a visit from a burglar.

## **5. Can Burglars Gain Entry to Your House?**

If the house does not have an alarm system and no one is home, the burglar will enter the residence through the easiest way possible. They will aim to be as low key as possible and look/act as if they belong there just before doing the following:

### **Windows**

- Break the window glass then open the window.
- Slide a flat piece of metal or plastic between the windows to trip the lock and then open the window.
- If the window has an air conditioner in it, push or kick the air conditioning unit into the house to gain entry.

### **Doors**

- Use a pry bar to push door locks out of the way or rip out the door molding
- If they do not have a pry bar, kick the door in. Most door frames are not very strong and a good kick can break them open.

## **6. What Kind Property Are Burglars Looking For?**

The average burglar wants small light items that are valuable and are easy to fence. An example of these items include cash, jewelry, electronics, prescription drugs, and firearms.

# 6 Home Protection Tips

## BURGLARS

### Don't Want You To Know

Is your house an easy target?

Four burglaries occur every minute in U.S., which means one at every 15 seconds.

Burglars spend less than 60 seconds to break into a house, and hours searching for the easy target to rob.

How likely is to have your home burglarized?  
Are you making these mistakes?

#### 1. Does your home have a security system?

 Burglars avoid homes with alarm systems.

 Burglars avoid homes with alarm systems.

Get a high quality alarm which includes:

- door and window contacts,
- cameras both inside and out,
- motion activated lights and alarms,
- company's sign posted in the yard.

#### 2. Is your landscaping burglar-friendly?

Burglars like shrubs in front of windows and doorways. Tall shrubs and fences help them work unnoticed by anyone driving by.



Plant pyracantha, cacti or cat's claw acacia, or trees like Honey Locust or Black Locust. Thorny bushes planted around windows can be a nightmare to get caught up in.

#### 3. Burglars look for tool sheds

Keep these areas secured. Burglars will use your own garden tools to enter an upper story window that may have fewer theft deterrents.



#### 4. Can burglars determine when to strike?

YES, they can. Observing people's daily habits will tell the burglars when to strike.

If you post on Facebook or Twitter your vacation plans, be sure that your home will be penciled in for a visit from a burglar.

Most break-ins occur during the daytime, when people are at work.

July and August are the most frequent months for break-ins.

February is the least frequent for burglaries.



#### 5. Can burglars enter your house?

YES, they can.

Is your house missing an alarm system, and no one is home?

Burglars enter the residence through the easiest way possible: pushing the door in, or breaking a window.

60% of burglars used force for their entry.

30% of burglars entered through an unlocked door or window.

33% of burglars enter a home through the front door.



#### 6. What valuables are burglars looking for?

Usually, burglars want small light items that are valuable and are easy to fence:

According to FBI, the average dollar loss per burglary is

\$2,185.



## HOW TO KEEP THE BURGLARS OUT

Get real protection:

- Replace high privacy fences with 3 to 4 ft wooden or chain link fences.
- Use steel anchor bars to set all doors deep into the outer walls.
- Install premium lock sets and dead bolt locks in all outer doors.
- Get an efficient security system.

Prepare to get noisy: Buy a dog for your home protection, but other animals also work (rins, snakes, pigs or birds).

Make your home hard to explore without being noticed.

Keep a low profile: Don't advertise when you're preparing for holiday.

Sources:  
<http://www.survivorblog.com/home-protection-tips/>  
<http://www.survivorblog.com/what-burglars-look-for/>  
<http://www.safelive.com/blog/6-surprising-home-burglary-statistics>  
<http://www.safelive.com/news/6-surprising-home-burglary-statistics>  
<http://www.safelive.com/news/6-surprising-home-burglary-statistics>

## **What to Do?**

Here are a few things to secure your home against burglars:

### Outer Perimeter Fences

Replace high privacy fences, tall hedges, or tall stone or brick walls with three to four foot wooden (not stockades) or chain link fences. Burglars have no place to hide and are in the open.

### Windows

- Replacement double pane windows with locking window screens.
- Use steel anchor bars to set the windows deep into the outer walls.
- Install secondary screw in window locks.
- Do not use window air conditioning units to cool your home. Instead use a central air conditioner unit.

### Doors

- Use steel anchor bars to set all doors deep into the outer walls.
- Install premium lock sets and dead bolt locks in all outer doors.
- Install an armored peep hole in the door that gives a good view of porch and front walkway.
- Install a lockable heavy duty storm door on all outer doors.

### Vents

- Small and low profile roof vents.
- Small reinforced dryer and bathroom vents.

## **How Does the Home Owner Keep His Valuables Safe?**

Install good premium [safes to keep valuables in](#).

- Safes are basically designed to take long periods of time to break into and the average burglar does not want to be in the house that long.
- Be sure that floor safes are well secured with bolts and steel plates that go through the floor to keep them from being pulled out of the house.
- Keep the floor safe out of plain sight and do not advertise to the neighbors that you have one.
- When using a wall safe to keep valuables in get a premium safe that has a long time needed to break into.
- Do not mount a wall safe on wooden studs because they are too easy to chop out of the wall. Instead mount the safe on steel studs that are well anchored in the foundation and built in a weight bearing wall.

Protecting your property and discouraging burglars can be done with a little bit of attention to what burglars will most look for. If you have a good alarm system, always use it when you are not home even for a few seconds.

Use common sense when planting trees and shrubs in front of windows and doors. Boundary line fencing should be either a wood or a chain link fence. As a home owner you must make your home look and feel to a burglars that they would be wasting their time if they try to break into your home.