

# Burglary and Car Prowl Prevention Things You Can Do

## Basic Things to Do

1. Lock doors and windows. Get the whole family on board to do this.
2. Make your house look occupied. Leave a light on when you are away. Leave a radio on.
3. Tell a neighbor when you will be away over night; have them remove newspapers and packages left on the front porch. Put lights on a timer so they come on and off the normal times.

## Then Strengthen your Home's Security

Before you make security improvements, identify those entry points most likely to be used by a burglar. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Which entrances are hidden/out of view from my neighbors?
- If I am locked out of my house, where could I get in without too much difficulty? Every door/window you list in response to these questions should be a number one priority. Your goal is to make it difficult for a burglar by forcing them to take more time and to make more noise!
- Exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand excessive force: solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors, reinforced door jams or jam braces.
- All exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- Strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction with three-inch screws, heavy-duty strike plates and tamper proof hinges
- Exterior doors should fit snugly against the frame.
- The main entrance door should have a door-wide-angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole.
- Sliding glass doors and windows should be secure against forcing the locks or from being lifted completely out of the frame.
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion. Double-hung windows should be secured with pins or extra locks to discourage prying.
- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to allow visibility along the perimeter and entries) of the house.
- All entrances (doors and windows) to your home should be well lit at night.
- Install motion sensor lighting, specifically directed and focused on entry points and vulnerable areas; be careful not to "light trespass" on your neighbors though.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm.

## Things to do to Prevent Car Prowls

- Before leaving your parked car, always remove the keys, roll up the windows and lock the car.
- Leave nothing visible in your car that might be stolen.
- If your car is stored in a carport or parked near your house, leave your exterior lights on throughout the night.
- If you park on the street, choose a well-lit, open space even if it means adding additional street/yard lighting & trimming back trees and bushes that block your view of your vehicle.
- Consider replacing the light fixture closest to your car with a motion detector unit. Motion detectors are good psychological deterrents since the normal assumption of a person seeing a light come on is that someone has seen them. Additionally, the light makes the prowler or thief more visible.