



HOME SECURITY & SAFETY

In Canada, a break and enter occurs about every three minutes. Given the time and the opportunity a criminal can break into almost any home. It is possible to greatly reduce and discourage a criminal from committing a break and enter by following simple and effective security measures to target harden your residence. Although no set of security measures are 100 per cent effective there are many security measures that will help to reduce the risk. The following is a list of steps to guide you in target hardening your home.

By taking safety and security seriously and incorporating it into your daily routine you can substantially reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

Home Security and Safety Tips

- Create a neighbourhood watch program in your community.
- Lock all doors and shut and secure all windows when you leave the house.
- Close your blinds or curtains when you are not home, and leave a light on if it is dark outside.
- Leave a radio or television on if you are not going to be gone for long.
- Do not leave notes on your door explaining that you are out of the house.
- Never hide a key outside your house.
- Do not leave your purse or keys by an unlocked door.

Locks

- Locks which have the key hole in the knob are not reliable; they can be easily forced from the outside.
- Install one-inch (or longer) deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Caution must be used when installing double cylinder locks on emergency exits.
- Key control is important. If keys are lost, locks should be changed.

Door Security

- Exterior doors should be of solid core construction.
- Ensure that door frames are solid and equipped with a high security strike plate, with 3-4 inch wood screws.
- Doors should be mounted so that hinge bolts are not exposed to the outside.
- Chain locks are poor security. Install a door eye-viewer.
- Sliding glass doors or windows can be lifted out of their tracks. Install self-tapping screws in the upper track that allow the door or window to slide into place. A square edged length of wood, placed in the bottom track will resist lateral forcing.
- Keep doors shut and locked even when you are at home.

Window Security

- Close and lock all windows when you are not home.
- Windows are easily pried. Supplementary locks, such as a square edged piece of wood in a slider window, can help to prevent the windows from being opened.
- Use security bars on basement windows. Ensure the security bars can be opened from the inside in an emergency.
- Secure other openings into your home, such as milk chutes and air conditioners.

Yard Security

- Don't leave items such as tools and ladders accessible in your yard.
- Keep your bushes, hedges, and shrubs all trimmed so your windows and doors are not obscured.
- Install sensor lights that are high enough not to be tampered with and protected so they cannot be broken.
- If you are at home and working in the back yard, ensure that your front door is locked. As well, if you are working in the front yard ensure that your back door is locked.

Garage Security

- The garage is a major target for a break and enters.
- Ensure that you install a solid core door on the pedestrian door of your garage.
- Install a proper dead bolt and strike plate on the pedestrian door.
- Cover all windows with curtains or blinds.
- Place a good padlock in the track of the overhead door and turn off the power to the overhead door when you are out of town.
- Make sure all garage doors are locked when you are not in the garage.
- Do not leave vehicle keys or garage door openers in the garage.
- Make sure to engrave all tools with a personal identity number.

- Keep a property record list which can include the make, model and serial # of all tools. Also fill out a bicycle record list for any bicycles that you own.