

Preventing Home Burglaries

LOCKS, DOORS, AND WINDOWS

- Install good deadbolt locks in your doors & Use them! (About 50 percent of burglars get in through unlocked doors and windows!)
- Avoid door locks that can be manipulated by breaking glass or door panels to reach inside.
- Make sure outside doors, including the one between your house and garage, are solid, 1 3/4 inch metal or wood and fit tightly in their frames. Hinges should be on the inside.
- Secure sliding glass doors w/ commercially available locks (“Charlie bar” and “pinlock”)
- Keep all windows locked at all times and utilize “thumb locks”
- Replace the striker plate screws with 3 1/2” steel screws into the door jamb
- Utilizing a door security bar and/or a “jamb shield”

OUTSIDE

- Trim back shrubbery that hides doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb into second story windows. Trim everything below 2 1/2’ and above 7’
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well lit.
- Help keep your neighborhood in good shape. Dark alleys, litter, and run-down areas attract crime.
- Keep gates locked at all times
- Install “beware of dog” signs

KEY SENSE

- Do not hide around the your house. Give a duplicate key to a trusted friend or neighbor in case you are locked out.
- Do not put any personal identification on key rings.
- If you lose the keys to your home or move, change the locks immediately.

ANSWERING THE DOOR

- Install a wide angled peephole in all entry doors so you can see who is at your door. A short chain between the door and the jamb is not a good substitute because it can be broken easily.
- Don't open the door to anyone you do not know without first verifying

that person's identity.

GOING AWAY?

- Burglars hope to avoid people, so make your home look occupied!
- “Vacation Watch” is a service provided to the residents of Irving while they are out of town. The beat officer will check the residence daily. To request this service or for more info: <http://cityofirving.org/884/Vacation-Watch>
- Leave lights on and the radio playing when you go out.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked at all times.
- Use inexpensive timing devices to turn inside lights and radios or television on and off at different times.
- If no one will be at home for more than a few days, arrange to have someone pick up the mail and newspapers. Have deliveries stopped or sent elsewhere.

AND FOR ADDED PROTECTION

- If you keep very valuable possessions in your home, investigate the benefits of an alarm system. Be sure to check the company's references.
- Create an inventory of all valuables with digital photos or video of property, including serial numbers. Store the photos or video in a safe or other secure location.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street and the alley if you have one to help police and fire departments respond to emergency calls.
- Find an unpredictable place to hide valuable items, like a moveable floorboard, under logs in the wood box, or among cleaning supplies under the sink.
- Store little-used items like a coin collection or stock certificates in a safe deposit box.

TAKE ACTION - TODAY

- Call the Irving Police Department for a free home security survey.
- Join or start a Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Apartment Watch and a “Safe House” program for children.
- If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call the police immediately.
- Report any nonworking street lights to the utility company immediately.