



## Don't Give Burglars a Window of Opportunity

Burglars enter a house, condominium or apartment every 5 seconds. Do not let your home become another statistic. Burglars look for what police call “Targets of opportunity”, in other words, easy pickings.

Here are some tips to help keep your home and family safe

- **Make your home look occupied**
  - Chances are, thieves will not burglarize your home if they think you are there.
- **Keep garage doors closed and locked**
  - Even when you are home, a locked garage door helps protect valuable property stored in your garage. Curtains or blinds on garage windows also help prevent people from seeing valuables inside the garage.
- **Consider buying an alarm system**
  - An alarm system can provide an additional peace of mind while you are away. There are various companies that provide a variety of security plans. Check with security companies for a system that meets your needs.
- **Do not keep valuable jewelry out in the open**
  - Be sure to keep valuable jewelry in a safe place, IE, safety deposit box, lock box, or an unusual hiding place. Be sure to remember where you have put your valuables.
- **Consult a good locksmith**
  - Different kinds of doors and windows require different kinds of locks. Single cylinder deadbolt locks are recommended. Be sure to have locks replaced when you move into a new place. Deadbolt locks should be installed with a bolt that extends at least one inch beyond the door edge. Consult with a reliable locksmith who can help you decide on the best lock for your situation and make sure you follow local regulations on locks.
- **Secure patio doors**
  - A pin lock or a key lock works best, or a steel rod can be inserted in the door channel. Additionally, put two or three screws in the overhead track to prevent someone from lifting the door out of the track.
- **Keep track of your keys**
  - Do **not** leave a key under a doormat, flower pot or on a window ledge. Burglars look there first.

**\*\*For your peace of mind, contact Mountain Home Services to learn more about the various plans available to you and the security of your home\*\***

- **Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed**
  - Prune lower limbs that could help a thief climb in second floor windows. Don't forget to trim trees and bushes so doors and windows are visible.
- **Lighting**
  - Criminals avoid the spotlight. Porches, yards and all entrances to your home and garage should be well lighted when possible.
- **Get automatic timers**
  - They help by turning lights on and off in different rooms at different times. If you do not have automatic timers, leave lights on in one or two interior rooms. They can make burglars think there is someone inside.
- **Have your lawn and walkways taken care of**
  - Dry, uncut grass says you are away. It also looks nicer when you do come home.
- **Do not let deliveries accumulate**
  - Have someone pickup mail, newspapers, packages, etc frequently. If this is not possible, have deliveries stopped so they do not pile up.
- **Put peepholes in doors**
  - Install the type with a magnifying glass lens so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- **Mark valuable items with an engraving pen**
  - Marking targeted item will discourage thieves and will also help police trace and return them if they are recovered. Be sure to take an inventory and photos of any valuable properties you have.
- **Burglary is everyone's problem**
  - Insurance can never replace keepsakes or priceless family heirlooms which we have close sentimental attachments to. A few simple precautions can cut theft loses and other various types of loses considerably.

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