

Home Inspection Checklist

Use the following checklist to help identify problem areas when doing a security survey at your home. Begin at your front door and move throughout your house and yard to identify problem areas that might make your home an easy target for a burglar. When you've completed the checklist, use our Home Security Tips to help improve security where needed.

EXTERIOR DOORS (INCLUDING GARAGE AND SLIDING GLASS)	Yes	No
1. All doors, including the garage door and sliding glass doors, are locked at night and every time we leave the house.		
2. All entryway doors are made of metal-clad or solid-wood construction including garage and basement doors.		
3. Wide-angle peepholes are installed in all doors without windows. Peepholes are at a height everyone can use.		
4. All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door including the door from the garage to the living quarters.		
5. Doors with windows within 40 inches of the locks are reinforced in some way to prevent shattering.		
6. Strikes and strike plates are adequate and installed with three-inch screws.		
7. Locking mechanisms cannot be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance installed in the door.		
8. Door hinges are protected from removal from the outside.		
9. Sliding glass doors have a strong, working key lock.		
10. A dowel, pin or other mechanism ("charley bar") has been used to prevent sliding glass doors from being shoved aside or lifted off their tracks.		
11. The garage door has a lock other than the automatic garage door opener.		
12. The garage door is closed and locked at all times.		
13. The automatic garage door opener includes an overhead light.		
14. Spare keys are kept with a trusted family member or neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in a mailbox.		
WINDOWS		
1. All windows have a working lock or are securely pinned.		
2. Storm windows and screens are securely fastened to the structure.		
3. All windows are locked or pinned even when opened a few inches for ventilation.		
OUTDOOR SECURITY		
1. Shrubs and bushes have been trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.		
2. All entryways are lighted with a bright, working light.		
3. Motion or sensor lights have been installed appropriately to alert us to movement in our yard and other appropriate areas.		
4. Ladders and tools are secured so they can't be used to gain entry to the house.		
5. Gate latches and shed doors are locked with high-security padlocks.		
6. Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.		

OUTDOOR VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

1. Grills, lawnmowers and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed. If left in the open, they are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.		
2. Bicycles are secured with a U-bar or quality padlock and chain even if left for just a minute.		
3. Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.		
4. Valuable items such as televisions, stereos and computers have been inscribed with an identifying number (not my Social Security number).		
5. Jewelry and other smaller valuables have been locked in a safe or a closet with a deadbolt and door hinges that have been secured so the door cannot be lifted off if the hinges are removed.		
6. Jewelry and other smaller valuables have been locked in a safe or a closet with a deadbolt and door hinges that have been secured so the door cannot be lifted off if the hinges are removed.		