

Protect yourself against home burglary

Fortunately, burglary is probably the most preventable of crimes. By taking a few simple precautions, you can dramatically reduce the risk.

1. Alarms Systems and Alarm Service

If you do not already have a security system installed, consider doing so. An alarm system could scare off a burglar when activated.

- a. Turn it on when you are away and at night when home.
- b. How often do you test it?
- c. Is your call list current?
- d. Are your signs and stickers current?
- e. Does your system need upgrading (another interior motion detector, an exterior door that needs a dead bolt, exterior motion light detector, etc.)

2. Lights

Install sufficient outside lighting to light up your entrance gate. They should be on a timer or sensor and on at night all the time, even if you are out of town. Make sure your home looks as though someone is there. A well lighted home should help discourage a break in. Also, place a small lamp in a room facing the street. You can use a 15w energy saving bulb and plug your lamp into a timer (some timers have two settings).

Example: 1st setting: on 9 pm .. off 10:30 pm; 2nd setting on Midnight .. off 2 am

3. Locks

Keep your doors locked even when you are home. Make sure all gates are locked and the garage door is also closed.

- a. Install dead bolts to exterior doors wherever possible.
- b. Keep a list of people who have copies of your keys.

c. Re-key you house key & your gate keys periodically.

4. Maxwell Security (when you sign up for patrol service)

- 1. Maxwell will respond to your alarm when activated. Response time, 4 to 7 minutes.**
- 2. If a suspicious looking person is driving or walking in our neighborhood, you can call the Maxwell patrolman, let him know the location and Maxwell will respond.**
- 3. Handbills, flyers, circulars, business cards, etc,
Hanging items from a gate knob or taped to outside wall is legal;
Distribution on private premises--Not Posted
(City Ordinance 5.20.070).**

ALTHOUGH .. it is unlawful for any person to distribute, deposit, place, throw, scatter, or cast any handbill upon any private residential premises if there is placed on said premises in a conspicuous place or position near the entrance, a sign bearing the words "NO SOLICITORS" or any similar notice indicating that the distribution of handbills is unwelcome (City Ordinance 5.20.060 Distribution Prohibited Where Properly Posted).

4. When away for extended periods

- a. Outside lights are most important and they should be on at all times in the evening as though the house is occupied.**
- b. Radio/TV turned on implies that someone is home and can be hooked up to a timer. Make sure the radio station you select broadcasts 24 hours/day.**
- c. Arrange to stop mail and newspaper delivery. The post office will hold your vacation mail for 30 day only. You have to contact the PO or your mail delivery person to work out an extended time you'll be away.**
- d. Make sure all doors (including gates) are locked before you leave on your trip.**
- e. Don't make it common knowledge that you're going to be away from your home. Burglars can take advantage of your announced absence to burglarize your home with more ease.**
- f. Arrange for a neighbor to watch over your home and property when you are away. Leave them with a key for emergencies.**

- g. Don't leave your house key hidden outside your home, a burglar might locate and unlock an outside door to your home.**
- h. Anytime (day or night) if someone rings your doorbell or knocks on the door, NEVER OPEN IT unless you know who it is (use intercom)!**
- i. Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. A message that you will return at a certain time leaves you vulnerable in the intern.**

By:

Old Las Palmas Neighborhood Organization, 2010