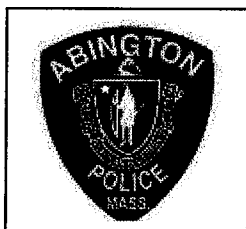


~ CRIME PREVENTION TIPS ~



Safety experts agree that the best way to deal with crime in the home is to take every step possible to prevent it from happening to you. Every person should know - at the very least - basic yet important crime prevention tips that will keep you and your family more safe and secure.

As explained in greater detail in this section, law enforcement and security experts will tell you from years of statistics and experience - criminals will almost always look for the easiest possible targets. While no one can be guarantee 100% that no one will break into your home, these tips will definitely reduce the likelihood significantly.

Read through the tips and advices of experts in how to burglar proof your home to avoid being the victim of a robbery or theft. The information here about basic crime prevention techniques will be very effective in making your home unappealing to any burglar. For example- by doing a few simple things such as keeping exterior lights on at night, making sure there aren't tall bushes that someone can hide behind, keeping all of your doors locked and installing safety windows, you can turn your house from a target into something a predator will not want to even attempt breaking into. There is also good information about how adding a burglar alarm or even simple home security devices can give you extra security that deter a criminal from choosing you as their next victim.

You can also work with your neighbors to keep each other safe. For instance, a neighborhood watch group is a great way to show everyone that they are being watched and will not have an easy time on your block. You can put up signs that indicate you have people watching for suspicious behavior.

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Here are some of the easiest ways prevent crime from happening to you or to significantly reduce your chances of being a victim.

1. Be aware, what is happening in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors, exchange numbers, including emergency ones.

This way, if anything ever happens in your home or on your property or to you, neighbors will know whom to contact in the event of an emergency.

2. Take simple and necessary precautions. There are many clever and inexpensive way to take precautions that you can implement around your home. Such things like alarm system warning decals, extra window and door locks and permit or lighting can go a long way in deterring crime. I will be going into more detail about this in the next 2 parts of this article.

3. Don't make yourself an easy target. It's hard to resist when opportunity comes knocking for a criminal- or what we like to refer to as the "why did he pick us" syndrome.

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Remember a criminal is an opportunist. He is looking for an easy score. If a burglar is walking down your street at night in your house is very well lit, and your neighbors' house is not, it makes it easier for the criminal to conceal himself and subsequently easier for him to break in.

What are some factors that lead a burglar to avoid your house and go to the next?

- He believes you're coming home soon.
- Make it more difficult for them to take advantage of you.
- He can be easily seen or watched.

There used to be a time when you can even note on the door any key into the mat. However, in under most circumstances, those days are unfortunately long gone. Actually, believe it or not, the note is still a good idea... if properly formatted.

For example:

Hi Uncle!

We had to run the store- sorry we could not be here when you arrived.

You have a key so please let yourself in.

By the way, would please feed Bruiser for me.

Now here comes the bad guy. What do you think he will be thinking as he reads this note?

- He thinks someone is coming over.
- It sounds like you'll be home any time.
- There's something in the house call Bruiser.

It doesn't need to be complicated.

Whenever you leave your home- even for a short period of time, *lock your doors*. It does not matter if you're just going to the store, which is three minutes away or picking your kids up from school. No matter what you do or where you go lock your doors and windows. What are important are the little details that would have him looking someplace else or moving on.

Did you know? The average time a burglar is in your home is three to eight minutes. And in that very short time, they can have most of your worldly possessions. How is this possible, you ask? Very simple; they know where to look!

Here's your proof. Let's say I'm a burglar and I'm breaking into your house. I am going to begin looking in the following areas. I will look in your dresser drawers. I will look on top of the dresser. I will look under your mattress. I will look in the corners of the room; I will look for upturned carpet or see if the carpet has been pulled away. I will look in your

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closet, I will look in suit pockets other close pockets. I look in your shoes are looking shoeboxes. I will look in your bathroom, either in the tank of the toilet or behind the toilet. I will look in your refrigerator and your freezer. If you have a home office, I will look in the desk drawers. By the way, if you have one of those fireproof locking safes, and it's not secured to the floor I will be taking that too.

Ask yourself the question: How long does it take you to get to the convenience store and back? Do you think it would take you at least eight minutes? Do you have reason to believe that a criminal has sufficient time to gain entry into your home and steal your belongings?

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Some of the simplest and easiest ways to secure your home may be a select combination of the following:

People ask us all the time is leaving the radio on a good idea. Yes, leaving the radio or the TV on is a good idea. However, your selection of channel will greatly enhance the effectiveness of this tactic.

Leave your TV or radio on a talk channel. This way, it appears as though there is a conversation going on inside the home.

A home alarm system is a very good option. Although these can be quite expensive, to not only install, but also to pay monthly monitoring fees.

Remove the window crank handles - if you have the type of Windows that crank open. Place one handle in a drawer of a dresser or nightstand in that room. This way, you will still be able to easily open or close the window when you want to. But you make it difficult for the criminal to open you go from the outside or inside for that matter.

Use secondary window locks. These can be purchased from any home improvement store. And are a great choice for securing Windows and doors, and they're very expensive.

Use double-keyed deadbolt locks. This is a deadbolt lock that keys from the inside, and the outside. There are a couple benefits to this double-keyed lock. First, if a burglar breaks in your home through a window, and he goes to exit the house through a door- he will not be able to leave because the deadbolt will be locked. And he will not be able to unlock it. Second, if there is glass in your door, and he breaks the glass he will not be able to unlock the door. Simply leave the key, near the door. You can unlock and lock the door easily from the inside.

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Use good lighting. This is probably the single most important deterrent that you can install around your home. Whether their motion activated lights, or you program the lights on a timer premise is lighting significantly reduces the attractiveness of your home or property to criminals.

Use locking pins. These are pins that can be installed on your sliding glass door that keep the door from being slid open or Pried open from the bottom.

Use glass anti-shatter film. More common in southern end Gulf Coast states this film comes in many different grades and thicknesses. It can stop anything up to a bullet moving at over 100 mph.

Use steel security bars. This is the kind of security bar that locks in place. By locking the bar in place it is not easily dislodged by the criminal.

Display window decals and signs. If you have a home alarm system you have probably been provided property signs and window decals. Many hardware stores actually have kits that you can buy that have decals or signs for the property that state you have an alarm system or a video surveillance system.

Do not use the following to secure doors or windows: Broom handles, non-locking window hasps, short screws (to secure the lock plate or deadbolt jam) or door chains.

Display a "Beware of Dog" sign. We did not say you had to go buy a dog- we're just asking you to pretend you have a dog. The criminal doesn't know whether you have a dog or not. You just need to make him believe you have a dog. Go to the hardware store and purchase a beware of dog sign, a dog dish, by some vinyl letters for the dog dish and spell out killer, Rambo, jaws, etc. and get a big piece of chain. Place the dog dish and a chain by your backdoor. Also, if you own a dog do the same thing. And don't forget to put killer or, Rambo, jaws or something like that on the dog dish. It does not matter even if your dog's name is fluffy. Your dog can't read the dish.

FBI statistics from 2000 to 2004 show that daytime burglaries actually outnumbered nighttime burglaries. In fact, in the US, 55% of burglaries happened during the day. Question... be suspicious of people in your neighborhood whom you do not know. If you ask questions or let them know that you're watching you will appear to be less of a target.

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Always remember, intruders will always look for the most vulnerable way to get to what they want. Doors are an excellent target. Here is some great information on guarding yours. The majority of devices mentioned here cost very little. All of them will help reduce burglary and make your house or apartment more secure.

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Begin with a home "security" check. Start with the front door and work clockwise around the entire inside of your home, finishing with the back yard, fence and shrubs, gates and garage. Shrubbery should never block the view of your front door. This allows an intruder the opportunity of privacy to gain entrance. A wide angle viewer in the door lets you know your visitor in advance. This item is recommended over a chain lock.

**Locks, Bolts and Hinges:**

A DEAD-LATCH is an inexpensive lock set which keeps the burglar from simply slipping your door open with a plastic credit card. This method of entry is common in many areas, but very easy to prevent.

**Auxiliary Deadbolt:** 1" deadbolt, single cylinder with hardened cylinder guard, and thumb turn. For extra security, a single cylinder dead bolt lock, with one inch throw and case-hardened insert, is recommended for all exterior doors. If you have easily breakable glass within 40 inches of a deadbolt lock, it should be augmented with a stronger type of glass or plastic to provide adequate security.

Most police departments do not recommend deadbolt locks for residential use. You may be adding additional security at the expense of personal safety with a double cylinder dead bolt. For example, you could lock yourself in and not be able to escape in case of fire or other emergency.

**The Rim Lock:** 1" dead bolt lock which is installed on the inside surface of the door. It is less expensive than other typed of locks, but equally effective for security.

**The "Jimmy Proof" Rim Lock:** is another lock which is installed on the inside surface of the door. But this lock has vertical dead bolts, which is an approved locking device.

**Cane Bolts:** 1/2" in diameter by 12" high installed at the top & bottom of the inactive door offers minimum security. Many homes with pairs of doors use half-barrel slide bolts on the inactive door. These are weak and totally inadequate.

**Flush Bolts:** Installed at the top and bottom of the inactive door or a pair of doors, flush bolts offer additional security, since the intruder cannot get at these devices to tamper with them if the doors are locked.

**Hinge Protection:**

Some exterior doors are improperly installed so that the hinges are installed from outside. To protect such a door from being lifted from its hinges by pulling the hinge pin, follow these simple steps:

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1. Remove two screws, opposite each other, from both leaves of the hinge.
2. Insert screw or concrete nail into jamb leaf, protruding 1/2".
3. Drill out the opposing screw hole in the door. Do this in the top and bottom hinge of the door. When closed, the hinge pins may be removed, but the door will remain firmly in place.

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Many burglars enter homes by simply breaking glass windows. A good deterrent is to have better quality glass installed at vulnerable points around the perimeter of your residence. Most burglars avoid attempting to break the following types of glass due to the fear of attracting attention:

Laminated Glass is made by a vinyl or plastic interlayer sandwiched between two layers of glass. This type of glass adds additional strength to your windows. To gain entry, a burglar would have to strike the glass repeatedly in the same spot in order to make a small opening. Most burglars are reluctant to create this type of noise for fear of being detected.

Tempered Glass is made by placing a piece of regular glass in an oven, bringing it almost to the melting point, and then chilling it rapidly. This causes a skin to form around the glass. Fully tempered glass is four to five times stronger than regular glass.

Wired Glass adds the benefit of a visible deterrent. Extra effort will be needed to break the glass and then cut through the wire located within the glass, in order to gain entry.

Plastics: Plastic material is divided into two types; acrylic or polycarbonate. The acrylics are more than ten times stronger than glass of the same thickness and are commonly called Plexiglas. Polycarbonate sheets are superior to acrylics and are advertised as 250 times more impact resistant than safety glass, and 20 more times than other transparent plastic.

With Sliding Windows the primary objective is to keep the window from sliding or being lifted up and out of the track. There are many manufactured products available for securing windows. Here are some of the suggestions:

Pinned Window Anti-Slide Block Slide Bolt: It is not recommended that you lock a window in a ventilated position. This is an invitation to a prying action which can result in entry. Key locking devices offer no real security and they can be a fire exit hazard.

Casement Windows are the simplest to secure. Make sure the latch works properly and that the "operator" has no excess play. If so, replace the worn hardware.

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Double Hung Window latches may be jimmied open. If a window is not used, screw it shut (except bedrooms). For windows in use, drill a sloping hole into the top of the bottom window, through and into the bottom of the top window, and insert an easily removable pin or nail.

Louvre Windows are bad security risks. Remove and replace with solid glass or other type of ventilating window. Or protect with a grate or grille (except bedrooms).

Warning: One window in every bedroom on the ground and second floor must be left available as a fire exit, particularly for children and guests in your home. At night, the bedroom window may often be the quickest and safest means of getting out. Because of the danger of fire, decorative grilles are not recommended on bedroom windows.

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**Burglar Alarms:**

The best choices in burglar alarms burglar deterrents depend very much on the living situation you are in. There are a variety of anti-theft devices to suit a variety of budgets and needs. There are some universal things to consider though, no matter what your choice in personal protection turns out being. Whatever your choice, do make sure that you take the time to do even some basic steps to protect yourself.

Even if you can't afford or don't want to go to the trouble of an elaborate system, there are many things you can do for deterrence. It is a well known fact in the law enforcement community that burglars tend to look for the easiest targets. Making your home even a little difficult to get into you greatly decreases your chances of being robbed.

Burglars dislike noise - it attracts attention. A barking dog is the best deterrent in preventing burglaries. However, a watch dog cannot always be depended upon. Some professional burglars have been known to carry delectable "dog snacks" in their pockets - and with a full stomach, some watch dogs make friends easily and forget their purpose of guarding the premises. The most reliable safe-guard to protect your home and possessions is a reliable alarm. Many types of burglar alarms can be obtained for residential use. It is advisable, however, that basic hardware security measures be followed first. If additional security is desired, the following recommendations could be helpful.

Obtain estimates from three alarm companies, notifying each of this procedure. An audible alarm is usually recommended over silent alarms for residential use in order to first protect persons and secondly, property. Don't depend entirely upon an alarm system to protect you - be sure to use proper locking devices. Any alarm system should include:

A. A battery-powered fail-safe back-up.

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- B. Fire-sensing capability.
- C. Read-out ability to check working of system.
- D. Horn sounding device installed in attic through vent.

When you go out shopping for an alarm system be sure and take this list with you.

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Secondary Barrier:

If the values of small personal items warrant protection, a secondary barrier can be an effective additional safeguard. Again, burglars are looking for the easiest and the quickest things to steal. If someone happens to enter your home, making your valuables hard to find or hard to get at makes it more likely that they won't be taken.

Some simple ideas include:

Get a diversion safe. Hiding valuables in these types of safes are an effective way to keep valuables out of sight. Diversion safes can look like rocks, cans of soda, ordinary household cleaners, knick-knacks, candles, books, and more. On a hinging closet door, install a 1" dead bolt lock. Store your jewels, furs, cameras, guns, silverware and other valuables behind this barrier. Be sure to "pin" the hinges (as outlined in the article "How To Burglar - Proof Your Doors"). You can find these diversion style devices at many local lock smith companies.

**REMEMBER A CRIMINAL IS AN OPPORTUNIST. HE IS LOOKING FOR
AN EASY SCORE.**



DON'T BE ONE!!!