

# Home Security Checklist

Most burglars target unoccupied homes to avoid a physical confrontation or being identified and arrested. Many burglaries occur between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. while residents are away from home. Homes that are secluded or have overgrown bushes, blocked sightlines or poor lighting are desirable targets because suspicious activities will likely go unnoticed. Burglars often gain access to a home through unlocked doors and windows or may break in using screwdrivers and other tools.

Burglars frequently steal portable property that can be carried in backpacks or bags including jewelry, prescription drugs, electronics and firearms that can easily be sold for cash. Property that is readily accessible in the front, side yard or open garage will also be vulnerable to theft.

Burglars are deterred by the presence of alarm and camera systems, observant neighbors and passersby, vocal dogs and additional security devices.



*The following is a checklist of steps you can take to improve your home's security.*

## Exterior Doors & Garage

- Exterior doors are always locked when they are not being monitored.
- The overhead garage door has a lock that is used when leaving the house.
- If there is not a window adjacent to the door, a wide-angle peephole is installed at a height everyone can access.
- Glass panels on doors are reinforced with security film that is shatter-resistant.
- Exterior doors have sturdy deadbolt locks.
- Door strike plates are secured with long screws that penetrate into the studs of the doorframe.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter.
- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a deadbolt.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Garage doors are closed when they are not being monitored.

## Outdoor Security

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide, especially around entry points—windows, doors and gates.
- Fences or other structures do not block sightlines to the front of the home.
- Gate latches and shed doors are consistently locked with high-security padlocks.
- House numbers are clearly displayed so police and other emergency responders can find the house quickly—day or night.
- High resolution exterior video cameras have been installed at angles capturing facial and physical features of visitors; footage is kept for at least 2 weeks.
- Exterior lighting provides a soft, even light around the house, without dark areas or glare. Lighting illuminates entry points to the home.
- Outdoor lights are turned on in the evening—whether activated manually, remotely, by dusk-to-dawn or motion-activated sensors.
- Tools, ladders and outdoor equipment are stored in a locked garage or shed.
- Bicycles are secured with U-locks or other sturdy locks to a solid rack or fixture, even if left briefly unmonitored.

## Windows & Sliding Glass Doors

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- The sliding glass door has a strong, working auxiliary lock.
- A dowel, track or pin lock has been installed to secure the sliding glass door or window and prevent it from being opened or lifted off the track.
- Windows in the house have working auxiliary locks or are securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked and secured by a secondary lock when they are opened for ventilation.
- Air conditioner units are secured to the window frame.

## Security When Away From Home

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- Everyone in the household consistently activates the alarm system when leaving home. Contact info is up-to-date with the monitoring company.
- Lights, televisions and radios are set on timers or activated remotely to create an appearance of occupancy while out of town.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped while away on vacation.
- A trusted neighbor has been asked to place recycling bins at the curb and return them on trash service day and watch the home while away.
- For longer trips, a friend or landscape service maintains the yard.

## Valuables & Personal Property

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- Safes are bolted down and hidden. Unloaded firearms with trigger locks are stored in the safe.
- Valuables are placed in locations that a burglar wouldn't consider looking (not in a master bedroom or office).
- Home inventory with photos, descriptions, and serial numbers of valuables is up-to-date. A complete copy is kept in a fireproof safe or an electronic copy is stored in email or the cloud.
- Valuables, electronic devices, personal info, car keys, coins and shopping bags are removed from vehicles to prevent car prowls.
- A locked mailbox is installed.

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## TIGARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Emergency 9-1-1** (Report crimes in progress & immediate threats to life, property)  
**Police Non-Emergency 503-629-0111** (Suspicious activity, crime that already occurred)  
[www.tigard-or.gov/police](http://www.tigard-or.gov/police) | TPD tipline: [tips@tigard-or.gov](mailto:tips@tigard-or.gov) or 503-718-COPS (2677)