

# Quick Tips



## Did You Know?

The majority of residential crimes are crimes of opportunity, wherein the victims have left their homes unsecured.

The opportunity for residential burglary must be curtailed both individually and collectively through citizens working with local law enforcement agencies.

Many people who have never been a victim are often less than diligent about securing their homes and safeguarding their property. Unfortunately, thieves seek out these vulnerable opportunities, accessing homes and garages through unlocked doors and windows with minimum effort.

# 3 to 5

Reliable estimates from reports and analysis indicate that this is how long (in minutes) the average burglary takes.

## SHUT OUT Burglars

### 5 Key Components

WHEN APPLIED TOGETHER, THESE FIVE ITEMS SERVE TO HELP PREVENT RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES.

- **Surveillance**

The ability for people to see and be seen by day and by night

- **Lighting**

Interior and exterior, on timers when it starts to get dark

- **Physical Security**

Locks, hardware and structural elements

- **Evidence of Activity**

Providing a sense of occupancy at all times

- **Neighborhood Watch**

Neighbors watching out for each other

Most law enforcement agencies promote the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as the most effective way to confront crime. This environmental approach incorporates the above five key aspects into three specific areas of a residence, each of which is equally important to address.

# 1

### The Exterior

Included in the exterior category are lighting, landscaping and house numbers. Adequate, appropriate lighting and a well-maintained yard creates an aesthetically pleasing environment while allowing surveillance, defining space and guiding guests on to and out of your property.

# 2

### The Perimeter

Doors, windows, other entrances and alarm systems comprise the perimeter features. The primary goal is to remove any opportunity for a burglar to gain easy access and to ensure that security hardware and devices are not only adequate, but that they are used consistently.

# 3

### The Interior

The interior includes all interior factors such as lighting, timers and perceived activity. The goal is to create the sense that someone is home at all times, as most burglars want to avoid confrontation.

By maximizing the security elements in these three environments and maintaining the concepts of the Neighborhood Watch Program, you will enjoy the benefits of a secure home and community.



## Heavy Light Facts

Light up the perimeter of your home during the night, including entrances, rear doors and dark areas.

Lighting is a deterrent for someone who is tempted to commit a crime.

The best place for outside lighting is under the eaves, illuminating the walls, and by gates and driveways. Motion sensors are not as effective as dusk-to-dawn lighting, as they can be set off easily and frequently by animals, thus desensitizing the residents to their activation.

## Shedding Some Light

### • Incandescent or Halogen Lamps

**Pros:** The advantages are that they produce a bright light, are easy to control and are compact.

**Cons:** These live short lives and are fairly expensive to operate.

### • Florescent Lamps

**Pros:** These are less expensive to operate than incandescent or halogen, and last longer.

**Cons:** Though they put out a good light, they are more difficult to direct.

### • Mercury Vapor Lamps

**Pros:** They provide excellent light, are easy to direct, control and they are compact.

**Cons:** These require fewer fixtures to illuminate an area, but they have a shorter life.

### • High-Pressure Sodium Vapor Lamps

**Pros:** These require fewer fixtures and have a low operating cost. They are an excellent light source, are easy to direct and control, and are compact.

**Cons:** The fixtures themselves are expensive.

### • Low-Pressure Sodium Lamps

**Pros:** These are the least expensive to operate. The fixtures are expensive, but few are required. They are easy to direct and control, and are longer in size. These yellow lights are often used to prevent loitering.

**Cons:** They produce a yellow, light-reducing clarity.

## Solid Advice On Doors

### Wooden Entrance Doors

All wooden entrance doors should be of solid core construction and at least 1 3/4 inches. This also applies to the exterior, pedestrian garage door and the door that passes from the house into the garage.

Security screen doors provide excellent additional security when equipped with a good deadbolt lock.

### Sliding Glass Doors

If your sliding glass door is not equipped with hardware that prevents it from being rocked off the track when

in the locked position, install a slide-bolt lock at the bottom or a pin. The pin anchors the moving door to the stationary doorframe. Drill the holes and install the pin, angled upwards, to prevent it from being shaken out of place. As another precaution, install an anti-lift device in the top track.

### Security Screen Doors

Security screen doors offer good protection and allow for ventilation. Insist on the following features:



- Ring guard for the single-cylinder deadbolt lock
- Perforated or expanded metal screen to prevent reach-through
- Steel frame installed using non-removable screws or welded in place

### French Doors

Install a single-cylinder deadbolt lock and metal flush bolts on the inactive side of French doors, and a reinforced strike plate. The glass should be tempered or coated with a burglary-resistance glaze.

“  
**ADEQUATE  
LIGHTING IS ONE  
OF THE BEST  
AND EASIEST  
WAYS TO DETER  
CRIMINALS.**  
”

—SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Quick Tips

**"MOTION SENSORS ARE NOT AS EFFECTIVE ... AS THEY CAN BE SET OFF EASILY AND FREQUENTLY BY ANIMALS, THUS DESENSITIZING THE RESIDENTS ..."**

**—SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

### Make This a **Priority**

Equip all single- or double-entrance doors with a single-cylinder deadbolt lock. The bolt should have a minimum projection of one inch and be constructed to foil a cutting tool attack. The bolt should be embedded at least one inch into the strike plate. The cylinder should have a cylinder guard, a minimum five-pin tumbler and should be connected to the inner portion of the lock by connecting screws.

### KEY TIP

Regularly check all window security hardware and frames for corrosion and windows that have "settled," which prevents the locking latches from functioning properly.

### No Invitation Needed

Windows and doors left open for ventilation or for pets to access offer an invitation to would-be burglars.



### Achieve **Maximum Security**

It is important to use maximum-security techniques for the garage and to make certain that the perimeter is adequately lit. Do not leave your wallet and keys in the vehicles that are parked in the garage.

### Credit the San Diego Sheriff's Department

The information presented here is reprinted with permission from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.



• **WEB**

[www.sdsheiff.net](http://www.sdsheiff.net)

• **SHERIFF**

William Gore

• **ADDRESS**

John F. Duffy  
Administrative Center  
PO Box 939062  
San Diego, CA  
92193-9062



## Operation Identification Can Pay Dividends

Operation Identification is a program that encourages citizens to mark certain items with your California Driver's license number.

Thieves know that it is more difficult to "fence" property that has been clearly marked. Engrave such property as televisions, computers, small electronic devices, tools, microwaves, etc. You should never engrave valuables such as musical instruments, antiques or items that could lose their value if "defaced."

## GET IT ON TAPE

It is also wise to videotape and/or take photos of things that you cannot engrave, such as silverware, jewelry, crystal and heirlooms.

THINKSTOCK PHOTOS



## 4 KEY DETERRENTS

# 1

It is also necessary to secure the less obvious openings of your home to prevent intrusion. What may appear to be an unlikely point of entry to you may be just large enough for a small adult or child.

# 2

Ensure that all skylights in your home are secured with one-way screws so that the unit cannot be removed to provide roof access.

# 3

Pet doors are especially vulnerable. Cover them with a tamper-proof, solid piece of wood or metal, or a grill. The use of pet doors in sliding glass doors is discouraged.

# 4

Crawl spaces, either from the garage attic to the house or from beneath the house, should not be overlooked. Window air conditioners offer easy access if not installed securely. Install with long "through-bolts" and round the bolt heads, or use one-way screws on the exterior. Ensure that the unit itself has no "play."

## Residential Security Checklist

**U**se this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked "no" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that your home is targeted.

### Doors

Yes  No   
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.

Yes  No   
Door hinges are protected from removal from the outside.

Yes  No   
Windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks have been reinforced.

Yes  No   
All doors are secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw.

Yes  No   
Doors are equipped with a 4-inch strike plate.

Yes  No   
Doors are equipped with a 180-degree viewer.

### Windows

Yes  No   
All windows have adequate locks.

Yes  No   
Windows have screens.

Yes  No   
Windows are free from concealing structures or landscaping.

Yes  No   
A secondary security device is utilized.

Yes  No   
Exterior, exposed screws have been replaced or defaced.

### Garage

Yes  No   
Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.

Yes  No   
Garage is on a multi-frequency.

Yes  No   
The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.

### Interior

Yes  No   
If alarms are utilized, they are maintained and tested.

Yes  No   
At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended period of time.