

HOME SECURITY SURVEY

In Canada, a Break and Enter occurs about every 3 minutes. **NO** building is burglar proof. Burglars will be the first to admit that they target buildings that appear unsecured or lack security. To reduce your risks use this checklist to see where you could improve security.

DOORS

1. Is there a convenient way of clearly seeing who is at your door without opening it?

YES NO

Every entrance door should have a convenient way of clearly seeing who is there without opening it. For most doors this will require the installation of a wide-angled lens peephole or door scope. This will allow you to keep your door locked while checking who the visitor is prior to opening the door. If you have a screen door, leaving it locked you could open the main door so that you could still speak with any person at the door after opening the main door.

2. Do all of your exterior doors have a deadbolt with at least a one-inch throw?

YES NO

Criminal with tools easily defeat conventional key in the knob locks. Deadbolts should be installed on all exterior doors.

3. Are the screws that secure your entry doors and the strike plates located on the door jamb opposite the lock at least 2 1/2 inches long?

YES NO

Door kick break-ins to homes are becoming common. Most door installation use screws less than 1 inch in length, this results in a door that appears secure but is relatively weak. To secure a door properly the screws should be 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches long, and the strike plate should have a minimum of four offset holes.

4. Have you taken any steps to reinforce any windows located in or next to doors?

YES NO

Glass within 40 inches of a door lock can be broken and a criminal can reach in and unlock the door. The security of windows at the sides of doors can be improved by adding a polycarbonate panel.

SLIDING DOORS

1. If you have a sliding door, do you have screws in the top of the track to prevent the door from being lifted out when they are closed and locked position?

YES NO

There is a 1" gap at the top of sliding doors, which allows them to be lifted in and out of their tracks. The addition of 3 flat headed wood screws in the upper track of the doors in the closed position will prevent criminals from lifting them out.

2. If you have a sliding door, do you have either a hockey stick in the bottom track or a security bar to prevent the door from opening?

YES NO

The standard locking pin on sliding doors is usually cast metal, which is weak and easily broken. The snug fitting hockey stick or security bar should be added to the door to prevent it from being pried.

GARAGE DOORS

1. Do you always close and lock your garage door?

YES NO

Thefts from garages are one of the most common yet easily prevented crimes. Keep garage doors closed and locked. Keep ladders in the garage.

WINDOWS

1. Are all window locks equipped with auxiliary locks or pinned? Are they in proper working order?

YES NO

Most window locks are easily broken. Criminals target sliding windows because they are easy to jimmy open. To prevent a break and enter consider using a pin (removable nail like object drilled through the overlapping vertical frame, a piece of wood in the track or secondary aftermarket locking mechanism.

2. Are there clear views of all windows and doors?

YES NO

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight lines to your windows and doors, especially basement windows.

3. During the evening is there visible interior or exterior lighting that gives the impression that you are home, even if your not?

YES NO

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Use motion lights with a low intensity feature as an alternative to bright constant light levels.

VALUABLES

1. Do you limit your exposure to risk by storing valuables in the basement or keep them in a safety deposit box?

YES NO

Criminals know all the hiding spots on the first and second floor. The best place to put valuables is in a safety deposit box. Otherwise a good alternative is to hide valuables in a lock box in a general storage area of the basement. Criminals tend to spend a minimal amount of time there.

WHEN AWAY

1. When you are away from home do you leave lights on timers both inside and outside the home?

YES NO

Timers make a home look lived in and will potentially avoid leaving your home in darkness or leaving the outside lights on during the day.

2. Do you have a trusted neighbour or friend pick up your mail, newspapers, and flyers when away for more than a day?

YES NO

The accumulation of mail, newspapers and flyers is a sure sign that nobody's home. Avoid sending the wrong message to burglars.

3. Have you made arrangements to have your lawn cut and your snow shoveled when you go away?

YES NO

The appearance of your home should never vary whether you're home or away. Burglars are deterred by an "illusion of occupancy"

4. If you have an answering machine, do you leave a message that leaves the impression that you are home?

YES NO

Never leave a message that says you're not home.

Improving Your Home Security

Assessing your home's security is the first step in crime prevention. If you have answered NO to any of the questions, your home security probably has a weak link that a burglar may exploit. In most cases it is a fairly inexpensive to improve your home security. For further assistance please contact the Aylmer Police at 519-773-3144 20 Beech St.E., Aylmer, ON.