Residential Burglary

IF YOU WERE LOCKED OUT OF YOUR HOUSE, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO GET IN?
Maybe you leave a window at the back of the house unlocked or hide a key in your mailbox or under a planter. You may think this is a good idea but remember - if you can get in, so can a burglar.

SECURITY BASICS

If you have an alarm - use it all the time. Have your system checked by the alarm company. Consider upgrading your system. Make sure all family members know how to use the alarm.

Make it more difficult for the burglar to find your valuables if he does get inside your home. Find a safe hiding place for your valuables. Don't leave them on the dresser or in a dresser drawer. Designate one closet as "safe" room and fit it with a solid core or metal door with hinges on the inside and a single cylinder deadbolt lock.

You can help make your home and your neighborhood less attractive to burglars by taking simple precautions, looking out for your neighbors and - if you notice anything suspicious - by calling the police right away.

Any door or window that is not properly secured is an open invitation to the burglar. In at least one-half of all residential burglaries, thieves entered through unlocked doors or windows.

When glass is present within 40" of the inside latch, install a double cylinder deadbolt lock. If small children or the elderly reside in the house, consider installing security film or decorative grillwork since double cylinder deadbolts can create a problem in case of fire.

Thieves hate bright lights. Add outdoor lighting in entryways, ground level windows and garages. Use a combination of motion sensor, photo-electric, low-voltage and decorative landscape lighting for maximum protection. If you travel, create the illusion that you’re at home by using timers to turn lights on and off. Don’t come home to a dark house. Install a photo-sensitive lighting fixture at the front door and leave several lights on timers inside.

To secure sliding glass doors install auxiliary locks. Remember that metal locks can become corroded from weather and wear.

Jalousie windows are almost impossible to secure without adding protective security grillwork. This type of window should be replaced whenever possible.

Keep shrubs and hedges trimmed. Make sure fences or trees don’t hide your doors and windows from view.

Vary your routine so it will be impossible for the would-be burglar to observe your movements and know when your home is likely to be empty. When you return home, observe your surroundings and be alert to any suspicious activity, persons, or vehicles. Have your keys ready – go right in and lock the door behind you.

Keep a detailed inventory of all valuables. This will help police identify you as the owner should your property be stolen and later recovered.