

DO-IT-YOURSELF HOME SECURITY

TAKING PRACTICAL STEPS TO...



...PREVENT HOME BURGLARY

BY KYLE TRAVIS

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INTRODUCTION

In order for a person to feel free they must first feel safe and secure in their own home. However, a home feeling secure and actually being secure are very different. After all, it isn't a coincidence that burglaries happen more to households where no security measures have been taken. In fact, increasing your home's security is a must. FBI statistics estimate that a home burglary occurs every 15.4 seconds in the United States. Furthermore, a whopping 87% of all burglaries are considered preventable. Hence, you can significantly reduce your chances of being burglarized by being proactive, developing good habits, and implementing a home security plan.

A HOME BURGLARY OCCURS EVERY 15.4 SECONDS IN THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO FBI STATISTICS.



So, what's the typical burglary like? The majority of home burglaries are committed on weekdays between 1 and 5 pm by men between the ages of 16 and 25 years old. Most will spend no longer than a few minutes attempting to enter a residence. They look for an open door or window, cheap locks, or a house that can be approached without anyone seeing. They check to see if anyone appears to be home, if there's evidence of an alarm system, where the easy points of entry might be, and if any valuables can be seen through windows to determine if the house is worth the risk.

People need to be aware of what catches a burglar's eye to determine if their home is in jeopardy. The first purpose of this guide is to show what these "eye catching" events are and to teach how they can be prevented. The second purpose is to motivate people to take action. The truth is that most people aren't motivated to do anything until something bad has happened. Thus, take action now and dramatically reduce the probability of trouble in the future. Don't wait until it's too late.

Below is a list of the best ideas/tips on how to secure your home. I have placed these in order of importance with #1 being the most important. I mention numerous security products throughout. To learn more about these products click on the links embedded in the text. Also, if you are looking to buy any of these products, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) seems to have the best prices, even better than the big box stores such as Lowes or The Home Depot.

IF YOU LIKE THIS GUIDE, PASS IT ALONG TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY BECAUSE IT'S 100% FREE AND INTENDED TO BE SHARED.

1. LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS

The number one rule of home security is to lock up when you leave. Do this even when you're gone for a short period of time. I know it seems like common sense, but a large percentage of burglars enter a residence by simply walking through an unlocked door or climbing through an open window. By locking up, the probability of getting burglarized drops dramatically. So, make sure everyone understands the importance of locking up, because it only takes one person's carelessness to leave the house vulnerable.



2. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU LEAVE IN YOUR CAR



You've probably been told not to leave valuables in your car if it's parked outside. Well, you shouldn't leave your garage door opener in your car if it's parked outside either. In this case, all a thief would have to do is break into your car and press the button. Instead of the usual garage door opener that clips on the visor, get a [smaller keychain opener](#) that travels with you.

3. ADVERTISE AN ALARM SYSTEM



Most criminals are looking for an easy target so they usually won't go near a house with an alarm system. Alarm systems are great, and if having one helps you rest easy then it's well worth the money. Some good alarm systems are the [Skylink SC-1000](#) and [The Simplisafe Security System](#). These systems are wireless, easy to install, have great features, and require no monthly fee. However, if you don't want to buy an alarm system, just pretend like you have one by advertising with a yard sign.

This will prevent most burglars from even attempting to break into your home. Personally, I like the [ADT or Brinks sign](#). These two companies have the most recognizable names and logos. [These signs are available online here.](#)

4. GET HIGH QUALITY LOCKS



Department of Justice statistics show that 73 % of forced entries involve a damaged door or lock. Thus, high quality doors and locks are essential to good home security. But, what type of lock and entry door is best? Deadbolt style locks give plenty of protection and are extremely affordable. Below are results of independent research done by [consumer reports](#) on deadbolts.

Many of the dead-bolt locks we tested don't provide the level of protection you might expect. A few well-placed kicks or a standard cordless drill was all it took to defeat every lock except the [Medeco Maxum 11WC60L](#), \$190.

Those test results are especially unsettling because forcible entries, such as kick-ins, are the most common type of home break-ins. And 67 percent of respondents to our national survey count on dead-bolt locks to help keep their homes secure. But any dead-bolt lock is better than the common key-in-knob variety.

The only flaw we found in the Medeco lock was its brass finish, which tarnished. We tested the brushed-nickel finish of the same lock; it scored Excellent.

We spent weeks prying, hammering, picking, pummeling, and drilling locks, and few scored well. A handful proved far more susceptible than most.

PARTS ARE OFTEN INADEQUATE

All locks come with a strike plate that attaches to the door frame. But as we've reported in the past, far too many of those are flimsy. Except for the Assa M80, \$95, the kick-in resistance of most locks improved dramatically when we replaced the strike plates with a [Mag High Security Strike Box](#). You can buy it, or its equivalent, at home centers and online.

DRILLS EASILY OPEN MOST LOCKS

With all except the two locks classified as high-security, even an ordinary cordless drill could drill out the cylinders in 2 minutes or less. Our tests on the Assa and Medeco, which have hardened cylinders across the product line, ruined the locks but denied access—so you'd have to replace the lock but not your home's contents.

LOCKS SUMMARY

When it comes to ranking the best deadbolt locks, the [Medeco Maxum](#) is number one with [The Millennium Lock](#) (aka the ultimate lock) a close second. The Medeco was the only one that passed all tests done by consumer reports and was rated excellent (the Millennium wasn't tested by consumer reports). In fact, the Whitehouse and Pentagon actually use the Medeco deadbolt. No matter which deadbolt you choose, I would still recommend installing a [high security strike plate](#). Also, remember to always change exterior locks when moving into a new house because you never know who has a copy of the key. In addition, if all your locks are keyed the same, have one door re-keyed and give that key to visitors. Then, if the key is lost, you only have to change one lock. [Click here](#) to see my list of the best deadbolts. You won't be able to find these in most home improvement stores. In fact, almost every deadbolt lock available in home improvement stores can be opened in a matter of seconds with a \$2.99 bump key (don't believe me [watch this video](#)). The best place to buy deadbolts is online at [amazon.com](#). Also, [amazon](#) seems to have better prices on deadbolts than the big box stores (such as Lowes or The Home Depot) anyway.

TIP: IF YOU ALREADY HAVE DEADBOLTS, MAKE SURE THEIR BOLTS ARE AT LEAST 1 INCH LONG. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW YOUR DEADBOLTS STACK UP TO THE COMPETITION VISIT THE [BHMA WEBSITE](#) AND DO SOME RESEARCH. THE BEST DEADBOLTS HAVE AN [AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE](#) -ANSI- RATING OF GRADE 1. ANSI IS A NON-PROFIT GROUP THAT OVERSEES THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES. PRODUCT GRADES RANGE FROM GRADE 1 THROUGH GRADE 3, WITH 1 BEING THE HIGHEST IN TERMS OF FUNCTION AND MATERIAL INTEGRITY. IN ORDER FOR A DEADBOLT TO BE CONSIDERED COMMERCIAL GRADE, IT MUST MEET THE ANSI GRADE 1 SPECIFICATION. THIS MEANS THAT THE DEADBOLT HAS BEEN TESTED TO 250,000 OPEN CLOSE CYCLES, HAS A BOLT THAT INSERTS AT LEAST 1 INCH INTO THE DOOR FRAME, AND CAN WITHSTAND 10 HAMMER BLOWS WITHOUT GIVING WAY. ANOTHER STANDARD A DEADBOLT COULD HAVE IS UL 437. UL STANDS FOR [UNDERWRITER LABORATORIES](#). UNDERWRITER LABORATORIES IS ANOTHER WELL KNOWN ORGANIZATION THAT TESTS PRODUCTS AND WRITES STANDARDS. UL 437 IS THE STANDARD FOR HIGH SECURITY LOCKS ACCEPTED ACROSS THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AND IS MORE RIGOROUS THAN ANSI. IN ORDER TO PASS THE UL 437 STANDARD, LOCKS MUST RESIST A VARIETY OF ATTACKS INCLUDING DRILLING, PICKING, PRYING, AND HAMMERING. SO, WHEN CHOOSING A DEADBOLT MAKE SURE THAT IT HAS BEEN GIVEN GOOD RATINGS BY ONE OF THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS.

5. GET HIGH QUALITY ENTRY DOORS



You also need high quality entry doors to go along with high quality locks to secure your home. If you're replacing existing doors or building a new house use fiberglass or steel entry doors for the best protection. Also, if you can afford it, [buy doors with a three point locking system](#) like I mentioned earlier. This is where the door comes fitted with three deadbolts; one at the top, one at the bottom, and one at the usual spot in the center. Below are the results of independent research done by [consumer reports](#) on entry doors.

When it comes to security and weather-resistance, our tests show that a \$135 steel front door can be the equal of one in fiberglass or solid wood costing up to five times as much. But that doesn't mean the steel door is a better bet in the long run. After subjecting many different doors to dents and scratches, plus the laboratory equivalent of torrential rain, strong winds, and the equivalent of a decade's use, we found that steel doors show the effects of wear and tear more than wood or fiberglass doors do. That's an important point to keep in mind if, like millions of other homeowners, you're ready to replace the front door to enhance your home's curb appeal. The doors we're discussing here are known in the trade as entry doors. They can be back doors or side doors, too, not just front doors. (They're also known as door systems because they come pre-hung in a frame and often drilled for a knob and lock.) But because the main entrance commands the most attention from the street, it also commands the most attention in the marketplace.

HOW TO CHOOSE

Most doors perform very well, we found, so appearance and price will often be the deciding factor. But in selecting a door, you also need to keep some practical considerations in mind.

CONSIDER FIBERGLASS FIRST

Steel doors account for about half the market, competing with fiberglass and wood. Types shows how they compare. Considering price, wear and tear, and maintenance, fiberglass makes a very practical choice for most people. As a class, fiberglass doors edge out steel doors for wear and tear. Wood doors were better still in that regard, we found. However, wood doors generally didn't do quite as well as fiberglass or steel at keeping out heavy rain. They also require regular maintenance to keep their looks.

KNOW THE PROS AND CONS OF GLASS

Entry doors like the ones we tested are available in hundreds of variations, depending on which panel design, glass inserts, sidelights, or transoms you choose. The more elaborate the glass, the

more the door will cost. Keep in mind, too, that glass near the knob and lock can compromise security. Glass inserts also cut the insulating value of steel or fiberglass doors.

CHOOSE A HIGH-QUALITY LOCK

Entry doors don't normally come with knobs or a lock; you need to buy them separately. In our tests of security—assaulting each door with increasingly hard blows from a battering ram—every door failed because the doorjamb split near the lock's strike plate. We tested two doors again, with beefed-up locks and strike plates, to see how much of an improvement that would make. One door withstood five times as many blows before it failed. A Therma-Tru Fiber-Classic, with an optional three-point lock, showed no damage after a similar pounding.

DOORS SUMMARY



A steel or fiberglass entry door is best. If you have a hollow-core door acting as an entry door replace it immediately. Doors where the exterior casing is made of metal are better than casings made of wood. Examples of doors with a metal casing are the Pella AdvantagePlus™ Protection System or any Provia door. Also, remember that it's easy for a thief to break glass and then reach in to unlock the door. Install a double cylinder deadbolt if you have glass on or around your door. Other options are to install window security film or a metal grid over the glass. Window security film is a polycarbonate film that strengthens the glass and holds it together after breaking. Click here to watch how window security film holds up against a hammer attack (image in upper left). If you would rather have something more solid, Mr. Goodbar makes metal grids that are inexpensive, easy to install, and look good. However, the easiest thing to do is get an entry door with little or no glass.

TIP: THINK SAFETY AS WELL AS SECURITY. ALTHOUGH A DOUBLE CYLINDER DEADBOLT IS MORE SECURE, A TURNING DEADBOLT IS BETTER BECAUSE IT PERMITS A QUICK EXIT IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE OR ANOTHER EMERGENCY. THE SAME GOES FOR BARS ON YOUR WINDOWS. THEY MAY KEEP BURGLARS OUT, BUT THEY ALSO KEEP YOU IN. IF YOU MUST HAVE BARS OR A DOUBLE CYLINDER DEADBOLT, BE SURE TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF HOW TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE FAST. THE BOTTOM LINE IS DON'T IMPEDE YOUR ABILITY TO EXIT YOUR HOME IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

6. REINFORCE EXTERIOR DOORS FOR MAXIMUM SECURITY



Your locks are only as strong as your door casing. When you open an entry door and look where the deadbolt enters the door casing, you'll probably see a dainty strike plate held in place by 1 inch screws. Those 1 inch screws aren't long enough to anchor into anything behind the door casing. Most door casings are made of a soft wood species and are only 1 inch thick. Thus, they can be broken with minimal effort (as shown above). If you're replacing entry doors, a quick way to remedy this is to purchase doors that are already reinforced. A great

example of this is the [Provia Legacy™ Steel Entry Door](#) with the [Trilennium™ Multi-point hardware](#). If this option is too pricey, here are more ways to increase the security of your existing doors.

- A.** When it comes to reinforcing entry doors, the quickest, easiest, and cheapest thing to do is add a [high security strike plate with a strike box](#) using 3.5 inch #10 screws that go all the way into the wall stud. The [Mag High Security Strike Box](#) or one equivalent to this will work (pictured right). Adding a [deadbolt door reinforcer](#) around the deadbolt cylinder will also add significant strength.



- B.** Secure the hinges as well by installing 4 inch #8 or #10 screws. When doing this it's a good idea to drill pilot holes to guide the screws. Also, don't over tighten the screws, because doing so could cause the door casing to warp. Two screws in each hinge is all that's needed. If there are hinges exposed on the outside of your house take down the door and reset the hinges on the inside. Otherwise, entry can be gained by simply knocking out the hinge pins.

- C.** [The Door Club](#) secures your entry doors to prevent a forced entry. It works by inserting itself into a hole that's drilled in the floor. When turned around, it allows the door to



open a few inches so you can safely talk to whoever comes to the door. It's also a good choice if your door has glass near the deadbolt. Thus, if an intruder breaks the glass to unlock the deadbolt they may not be able to reach, or even see, [The Door Club](#). It can be hung on the door when not in use, is very easy to install, and is available in a variety of finishes.

- D.** For entry doors you don't open very often use a [security bar](#). A security bar wedges between the door knob and the floor, making it extremely difficult to open. This will secure a door regardless of how good the lock is and can be used on all entry doors when you're at home. **However, when you leave, one door will have to go without.** Make sure that door has good locks and is reinforced.



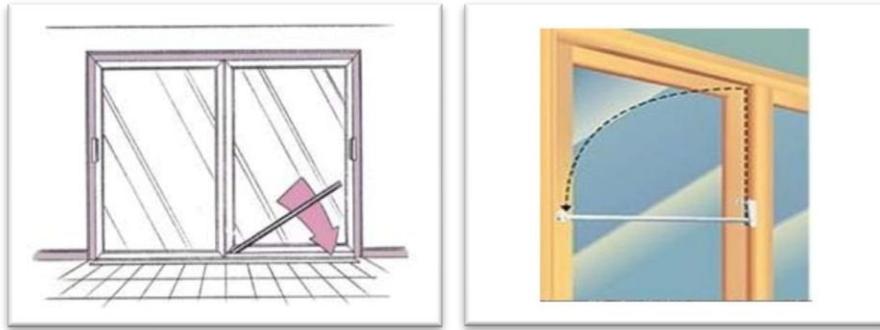
- E.** As I mentioned earlier, reinforce any glass that could be broken to gain entry with [window security film](#), a [metal grid](#), or replace the existing glass with reinforced laminated glass. A [double cylinder deadbolt](#) is another option if you choose not to reinforce the glass. If your door has no glass, install a [wide angle peep hole](#). This will allow you to see who is at the door before opening.

- F.** Add metal reinforcement to the door frame. There's a multitude of ways to reinforce a door frame. Check out my [YouTube video of this installation process](#). I show how to reinforce a new door during installation and an existing door. If you want written instructions [click here](#).



7. SECURE YOUR SLIDING GLASS DOORS

Sliding glass doors can be easy points of entry. This is because most sliding doors are secured by latch style locks that aren't very reliable. Here are a few ways to make sliding glass doors more secure. These tricks also work for horizontally sliding windows.



- A.** It's important to have something that blocks the door from being slid open. This can be done by placing a strong wooden dowel or metal rod into the track. A more convenient option is to install the [charley bar](#) (top right). This is a metal bar that attaches to the door frame and extends to the edge of the door. When not in use, the bar conveniently folds up.



- B.** A sliding door still isn't secure even if you have a rod in the track to prevent sliding. When leverage is applied to the bottom of the door it can be lifted off its tracks and completely removed from the frame. A simple way to prevent this is to install screws in the top of the doorframe (by the track where the door closes). This will let you open and close the door as usual but prevent the door from being lifted off its

track. Drive 2 inch pan head (large head) screws into the top of the door frame about every 10 inches. Drive them in far enough so the screw heads clear the top of the door.

- C. As I mentioned earlier, [window security film](#) should be installed to prevent the glass from breaking.



8. SECURE YOUR WINDOWS



Secure all windows that could be potential access points. Most burglars prefer not to break glass because it makes noise and leaves an external sign that the house has been vandalized. However, if you feel this could be an issue install [window security film](#) or window bars for protection. If you install window bars make sure to buy the type that can be opened easily from the inside to allow for a quick exit in case of an emergency. The [Mr.](#)

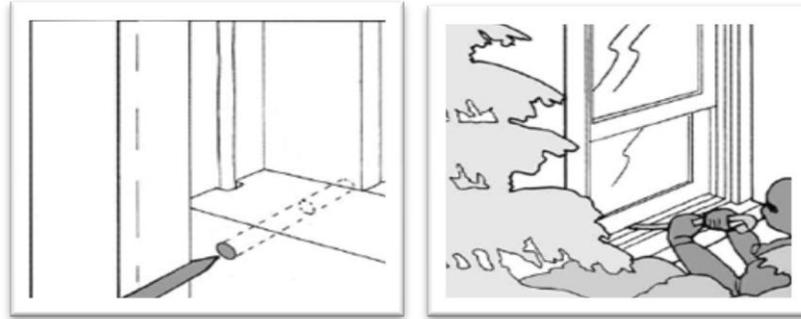
[Goodbar – Swing Away Window Bars](#) with the keyless quick release system are a great, affordable option. If you feel you don't need [window security film](#) or bars here are some other security measures to take.

- A. [Window Alarms](#). All susceptible windows can be fit with a wireless [window alarm](#). This, coupled with an [ADT or Brinks security system sign](#), can make an intruder think they've triggered a real alarm system.



- B. Get new windows. If your older windows are falling into disrepair it's a good idea to get them replaced because deteriorated windows can be easy points of entry. If you are in the market for new windows remember to take security into consideration when shopping. There are so many different window companies, window designs, and window materials that it can be hard to choose which is best for your situation. You can buy anything from high security windows with all the bells and whistles to cheap single pane vinyl windows. However, like everything

else, price and quality go hand in hand. Just remember to ask what security features are offered for a particular product line. Consumer Reports has some great advice when it comes to buying new windows. [Click here to see what they had to say.](#)



- C.** Double Hung Windows. **Sash locks** on older double hung windows can be opened from the outside by slipping a knife between the inner and outer sash. Also, if adequate force is applied the screws from the sash lock can be pulled free. Equipped with better locks, this type of window provides good security. Thus, a quick and easy way to secure newer and older double hung windows is to add new, more secure, **sash locks** right beside the original sash locks. **Keyed sash locks** are also available if you feel more security is necessary. However, don't use **keyed sash locks** in bedrooms or other spots where a quick exit might be necessary in the event of an emergency. For double hung windows with wooden frames, a **pin locking system** can also be installed. This is done by drilling holes through the upper and lower sash frames and inserting pins to lock them together (see the picture above for reference).
- D.** Casement Style Windows. Casement style windows are hinged on one side, like a door, and open outward using a crank system. Always remove the crank handle from casement windows that are ground level so they cannot be opened if the glass is broken. However, remember to keep them nearby in case of an emergency. All things considered, casement style windows are secure.
- E.** Remember the A/C. If you have a window air conditioning unit, secure it with screws to the framing around the window. Otherwise, a thief can easily push the unit in the window to gain entry into your home.

F. Basement Windows. Basement windows are always going to be a challenge to secure because of where they're located. In older homes they often have single pane glass, flimsy metal frames, and an opening big enough for an average sized adult to slip through. Replace those old windows with glass block for better security. Glass block also offers better privacy and energy efficiency. Other options are to install windows that are smaller, windows that don't open all the way, or window security bars. An alternative to window bars is to fasten a 2" x 4" across the opening of the window.

9. ZIP TIE YOUR GARAGE DOOR RELEASE LEVER



Thieves can easily break into a garage using a coat hanger to pull the garage door opener release handle (usually red) or the release lever itself. A simple solution is to secure the lever with a small plastic zip tie. In an emergency the zip tie can easily be broken by pulling down on the handle. [Click here to watch a YouTube video](#) to see how easy it is to open a garage door using this method.

10. REMEMBER THE GARAGE ENTRY DOOR

Many people secure their main entry doors but leave the door from the garage to their house unlocked. Even if it doesn't hold valuables, the garage can become a place from which a thief can take his time and use your tools to get into your house. So, secure your garage and the door between the house and the garage.

11. SPARE KEYS

Don't hide keys on the exterior of a house. Burglars can easily find these. Instead give a key to someone you trust or install a [garage opener keypad](#).



12. LANDSCAPING WITH SECURITY IN MIND



Consider your landscaping part of your security plan. Make sure your property shows you care. A well kept property gives the signal that you also care about your home's security. Trees located near windows or shrubbery that might shield an intruder from view can make your home more vulnerable. If you have large bushes in front of an entry door or window, prune them back. This will remove any cover a thief could hide behind. Also, trim climbable branches from mature trees and consider planting thorny bushes under windows and on fences where a burglar might gain entry.

13. GET A DOG

A popular way to enhance your home's security is to get a dog. Dogs of all sizes can increase your home's security by making noise to draw attention to a thief's presence. Obviously, the bigger the dog the greater the deterrent.



14. INSTALL MOTION DETECTOR LIGHTING

In addition to saving energy, [motion detector lights](#) add the feeling of being watched when they illuminate a porch. Install [motion lights](#) in spots that seem susceptible, like an entry door in a fenced in yard that's shielded from the street. Also, if you have a fence always lock the gate because most burglars won't bother to climb over.

15. DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR POSSESSIONS



Don't advertise there are things worth stealing in your home. If you just purchased a new TV or computer, don't just put the box on the curb when trash day comes. This publicizes that you have something of worth inside your home. Break down the box to be less obvious. Also, it helps to keep expensive items away from windows that are easy to see into.

16. MARK YOUR ITEMS

Discretely put your driver's license number (not your Social Security number) on everything that's expensive. Doing this will help you to identify your property with confidence if it's stolen. This also deters theft because marked items are risky to possess and harder to sell.

17. USE A HOME SAFE OR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX



Instead of keeping jewelry or other valuables hidden in your home, use a [safe](#) or safety deposit box. A safety deposit box is a great place to keep valuables and family heirlooms. However, if you want to keep everything at home, lock it up in a [heavy duty safe](#) that's either too large to move or securely bolted to the floor.

If you don't want to spend that much on a safe you can also buy a [book safe](#). These are small and designed to blend right into a shelf of books, which is a place most burglars won't bother looking.

18. DON'T LIST YOUR NAME ON YOUR MAILBOX

When your name is on your mailbox it's easier for burglars to find your phone number in the phone book and call to see if you're home.



19. MEET IN A PUBLIC PLACE WHEN SELLING THINGS

There's a new trend of so-called "robbery by appointment." This is where a thief looks on a website like craigslist for something they want. They then act like an interested buyer and make an appointment with the seller. Once at the seller's house they simply take the item (and probably other things that catch their eye) by force. If you want to sell things online, arrange to meet in the parking lot of your local police station for protection.

20. PERFORM BACKGROUND CHECKS

It's important to cover all your bases and get a background check on anyone you let into your home such as a babysitter or construction worker. Luckily there are numerous websites that make this quick and easy.

21. LOCKUP YOUR LADDER

Don't ever leave a ladder freely lying around outside. A burglar can use it to climb up to an unlocked second story window. If you must leave your ladder outside make sure it's locked to something, like a garden shed.

HOME SECURITY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars always look for signs of an empty house and will avoid a house if they think someone's inside. Follow these tips to keep your home more secure in your absence.

1. MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HOME

Make your house look occupied by putting lights on a [timer](#) so they switch on and off while you're gone. For an even better result, hook your TV up to a [timer](#). The flicker of the screen will create shadows and the effect of movement. Many newer flat screen TV's can be programmed to turn on and off without being hooked up to an external timer. Also, I like to arrange pillows and blankets in a way to make it look like someone is lying on the couch because I have a large window that anyone can easily look into. I even lay the remote and an empty pop can nearby for added effect. I know this seems a little "Farris Bueller" but the first time I did this I scared my mom while she was checking on our cat.



2. KEEP YOUR TRAVEL PLANS QUIET

All family members, including children, should keep travel plans quiet. Don't update your status or post pictures to Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace while you're gone on vacation or even just out on the town. Also, don't record a new message on your answering machine indicating you're away. This is like an open invitation for thieves to rob your home. In addition, pack your vehicle in the garage rather than the driveway. The fewer people who know you'll be gone the better.

3. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

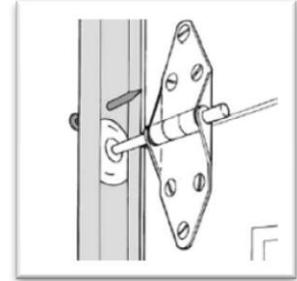
If you're going to be away for a week or more make arrangements to have your mail picked up, your grass cut or snow cleared, and your garbage cans taken out to the curb on trash day (even if there's nothing in them) so your absence won't be so evident.

4. TURN DOWN YOUR HOME PHONES

Adjust your telephone ring to its lowest volume. Unanswered telephone rings are an indication that your home is empty.

5. LOCK YOUR GARAGE DOOR

Since you won't be using your garage door for awhile lock it using your [garage door latch](#). If you don't have a latch, a pin or clamp can be inserted in the track. If your garage has an [automatic door opener](#), be sure it's designed not to respond to stray signals. Regardless, it's a good idea to unplug your opener if you'll be away for a long time.



6. TAKE A BARBASOL CAN SAFE WITH YOU WHILE TRAVELING



This tip isn't really about securing your home but the [Barbasol Can Safe](#) can help you secure important possessions left in your hotel room, car, or suitcase. This is a great safe to take with you while traveling to keep your cash, ID, credit cards, jewelry, and other small valuables in. It's perfect because it's the last place a thief would bother looking.

7. OTHER STUFF TO CONSIDER

If your drapes are normally open when you're home, leave them that way. If you have a second car, leave it parked in the driveway. If you have blinds on the windows in your garage, close them so no one can see that a car is missing.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, there's no guarantee that if you do everything suggested here your home will never get broken into. However, following these suggestions will definitely make it more difficult for a burglar to break-in and that's usually enough to get them to go elsewhere. If you come home and there's a slit screen, a broken window, or an open door call the police and **do not go inside.**

Again, this guide is free and intended to be shared. So, if you like it please feel free to pass it along to your friends and family. In fact, I would appreciate it if you could post the link ([found here](#)) to [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to help get the word out. This is easy to do and only takes a second. If you have any suggestions or changes that you feel need to be made feel free to contact me.