



# How To Improve Your Home Security

A guide to provide you with ways to  
improve the security of your home

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# Introduction

It's been widely reported that a home burglary now happens every 12 seconds. As such, the chances of your own home actually being at risk from a break in are greatly increased, and it does not matter where you live.

However, when people think of a break in, they tend to think of someone gaining entry into their home by breaking glass or smashing down doors. Yet there are certain things which could actually extend an invitation to those unwanted intruders to make an attempt at getting into your home.

There are many places which are vulnerable to attack from an intruder to your home, and therefore you must set up a routine which will then provide them with less opportunities of attempting to break in. Below, we look at what are considered to be some of the weak areas in your home security routine which could help to prevent any kind of break in from occurring.

## **Keys**

Although you may think it is a great idea, lending keys to family and friends, as well as those people carry out work in your home, greatly increases the chances of your keys being placed into the wrong hands. Although the people you provide a key to might be completely trustworthy, you can not control where the keys go once they are out of your hands, and the chances of them being duplicated are greatly increased. It's very important that you give great consideration about to whom you are issuing keys to your house. Never place keys in those secret places outside the home, as the smart burglar will know where exactly to look for them.

## **Locks**

Doors that have knob or handle locks are very easy for a burglar to get into, as all he requires is a plastic credit card or something similar to get past them. Therefore it's best if you install (and use) good quality deadbolts on all the normal entry points into your home. Statistics show that most homes which have been invaded had deadbolts but they weren't locked at the time of the burglary.

## **Door Entryways**

Although you may have very good locks installed on all your exterior doors, they are only as effective as the actual strength of the door, the hinges AND the door frame. The weakest area on most doors is not the locks or hinges, but on the door frame in the area where the strike plate is located. 73% of all burglars gain access to a property through a door entry way, and 80% of the time DOOR FRAME FAILURE is the cause.

You can easily cure this problem by installing a product such as the Door Security Pro Door Security Guard on all your exterior doors. Beefing up your wooden door frames is the #1 best (and least expensive) thing you can do to improve the security of your home.

## **Sliding Patio Doors**

Often, these type of entry doors have several distinct very disadvantages to them when compared to other types of entry doors. The main problem is that they usually come with much less sturdy and sophisticated locks installed on them. Some of the older models unfortunately can easily be lifted off of their sliding tracks which provides any knowledgeable intruder with a very quick and simple way of gaining access to a home.

## **Windows**

Windows which are left open and unattended not only provide intruders with easy access, but they allow them to quickly view what is available to them.

## **Gardens**

Both shrubbery and trees provide a way of allowing intruders to gain access to your property. Not only do they provide ideal coverage, but can also provide them with ways to gain access to your home easily and quickly.

Above we have looked at areas of the home where assistance can be provided to would be intruders to your property. But in this book, we will be taking a closer look at some ways of improving your home security, and hopefully help to prevent intruders from wanting to try their luck and break in.

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# Chapter 1

## Just How Secure Is Your Home?

Most everyone thinks that their home is fairly secure. Today, most homes are now fitted with good quality doors and windows which have good quality locks and deadbolts installed. Often when going out in the evening, people will draw the curtains and leave a few lights on to give the appearance that there is someone inside. However there are occasions, especially on those long summer evenings when it's still light outside that you go out and you decide not to do this. This unfortunately is when you are providing one of the best opportunities to a would be burglar to gain access to your home.

Often a would be intruder, rather than trying to gain access through the front door as they are likely to be seen by your neighbors, will then try to gain access to your property at the back, usually through the back door. Unfortunately, it will only take them a few attempts, and they can actually gain access to your home very quickly without your neighbors becoming aware that anything has occurred.

When this type of break in occurs, then the burglar will only take valuables that are easy to carry, and in most cases can be placed inside a pillowcase. Generally, they will often only steal much larger items like TV's, DVD players and stereos if they feel that they have enough time and are not likely to be spotted any time soon.

Therefore it is wise that whenever you leave your home for any length of time, both during the day

time, and at night, that you make sure everything is secure, and nothing can be seen which is likely to tempt the burglar to try to gain entry to your property.

Also, if you are having any work carried out on your home, it is not wise to leave the workmen alone at the home. I know the majority of workmen today can be trusted, but there are going to be occasions when the company you are using is new to you, and you have no idea of the trustworthiness of the people that they employ. Therefore, when having work carried out in your home, arrange for either yourself, a partner, a close friend or a family member to supervise them while they are in your home.

Unfortunately a lot of people today will often arrange to install a burglar alarm or home security system after an intruder has gained entry to their property. This is a bit like closing the stable door after the horse has escaped. It is therefore important that you start looking at ways to improve your home security to ensure that you do not become just another statistic.

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## Chapter 2

# Steps To Help Improve Your Home Security

Most people, when they consider improving the security to their home, will immediately think about getting an alarm or security system installed. Although they do play a major role in helping to ensure that an intruder is less likely to try to gain access to your home, there are some other things that you can do which take very little effort, and do not cost too much to implement. Below we provide you with a number things that you can do which will help to improve the security to your home immediately.

### **Keys**

Never leave keys hidden outside. If you are someone who likes to leave a key for their home hidden under, say the doormat or above the door on top of the door frame, then you really are taking your chances and inviting someone to break in. In fact, the first thing that almost any burglar will do is to look near the home to see whether a key can be found, and if so gain entry to a person's home very quickly and with out causing too much disturbance.

Therefore it really is not a good idea to leave your key hidden outside your home. However, if you do need to, then hide it in a place that is quite some distance from your home, and in a location where you think an intruder is 100% unlikely to look for it.

## **Windows**

One of the easiest and most common ways that burglars or intruders gain access to a home is through a window which has either been left unlocked or is cracked open. People are notorious for leaving second story and up windows unlocked or open and burglars know this. So if you are someone who likes to have their windows open, then at minimum fit them with safety devices which will allow them to open part way, but not enough so that an intruder can actually climb through the window. Additionally, when you do leave home for any amount of time, make certain that all your windows have been shut AND locked.

## **Gardens**

Almost every house you pass will have some kind of shrubbery or trees which are located quite close to it. These areas provide any would be intruder or burglar with great places where they can hide without being seen by others while they try to gain entry into your home.

Therefore, take some time and look at your home very closely and see which shrubs and/or trees you have that can act as camouflage for burglars. Ask yourself the following questions:-

1. How easy would it be for someone to get close to my home without being seen by others?
2. Would someone potentially be able to gain access to an upper floor of my house because of a tree that is close to my house?

It is extremely important that you eliminate any potential hiding places or ways for them to gain access to your property without being seen. Any trees that are very close to your home should be well pruned or cut back to ensure that there are no

branches within easy reach to areas of the upper floors of your home. Keep all bushes and shrubs at a level that there is no chance for an intruder to be able to hide behind them or in them. Certainly prevention is the best way of ensuring that your home remains safe at all times.

If you really feel it's necessary to have shrubs or bushes near your house, try to find those with thorns. Few burglars are willing to risk their personal health (not to mention the kind of evidence this would leave behind) when there are easier houses to go for.

### **Lighting**

Most property break-ins occur during the darkest hours, as the darkness dramatically helps to conceal the intruder from being seen. Therefore, having strategically positioned lights installed are an ideal deterrent to any would be intruder. A great way of preventing and helping to deter intruders is by installing fairly sensitive motion activated detection lights. These lights are relatively inexpensive, easy to install and a very effective way of helping to prevent a break-in from occurring.

### **Keep Your Possessions Out of Sight**

It is best if you try to attract as little attention as possible as to what valuable contents you have in your home. So if you happen to have a nice car, and you own a garage, then make sure you put the car in it each night. Unfortunately, a lot of burglars and intruders who see a home with a nice car parked outside are more likely to take chances and move in closer to see what else is on view for them to possibly take. Also, invest in getting some kind of thick coverings for your windows so that it makes it much harder for the would-be burglar or intruder to see what you have inside. Plus, when at home in the evenings, make

sure that as soon as it starts to get dark outside, you close your curtains or shades, as this provides them with far less opportunity to actually see what's actually in your home.

Above, we have provided you with a few simple ideas which can help to ensure that the level of security on your home is increased. The great thing about these particular ideas are that they are very easy to implement, and are not actually going to cost you very much.

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## Chapter 3

# Ways To Prevent a Break-in In Your Home

Most people feel that they are never going to be the victim of an intruder into their home. But unfortunately where burglars are concerned, they have no regard for you or your family. What they are looking for is a home in which they can easily gain access and easily take whatever they like in the least amount of time with the least amount of resistance.

You should be worried that your home will be the next target of a break-in and there are some easy steps that you can take to help prevent it from occurring. Although the tips listed below will definitely help to prevent a break-in, they will not actually stop the most determined of burglars from gaining access into your home. You should also have an emergency escape plan as a good run is always better than a bad stand.

### **Doors**

Most doors have the old-type, short stem, standard deadbolts installed on them. You should install the newer designs which have the much longer deadbolt stems. This will make it much more difficult for a burglar to break a door down. Also, if you can afford to, replace all the entry doors with much sturdier ones such as the new solid core metal doors. If you want wooden doors, there are some now that come with metal reinforcements inside them. Especially look at not just reinforcing your

doors, but also at the strike plate on the door frame in which it fits into. You should reinforce all your door frames by installing a product such as the Door Security Pro Door Security Guard on all your exterior entry doors. They're available online from: [www.DoorSecurityPro.com](http://www.DoorSecurityPro.com). They also work on double doors and French doors.

As for sliding glass patio doors, a quick and simple way of securing them is by placing a sawed-off broom handle or a metal pole in the track which prevents the door from opening. The only way a burglar would be able to gain access to your home through that door is by smashing the glass. This they won't typically do, as it makes much too much noise which is likely to alert neighbors as to what is happening. You can also use this same method on windows which slide open. One other consideration is to install high security window or glass film on vulnerable areas of glass.

### **Burglar Alarms and Home Security Systems**

Only use an alarm system that has come from a source that you trust, or from a manufacturer who is well known to you. Position several signs around your property to show that you have a security system in place. Put warning stickers on all your exterior doors as this will often deter a burglar very quickly from trying to break into your home. You can either install such systems yourself (there are some good options available at: <http://Home-Security-System.notlong.com>), or arrange to have a professional alarm company install it for you, but check their credentials and obtain any references you can first. Also consider having a professionally monitored alarm system installed, such as those supplied by ADT or Broadview. They are monitored 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Just keep this in mind; burglar alarms don't keep burglars out, they just let you know when someone is already in or is seriously trying.

## **Pets**

Having a pet that is very loud when it's alarmed or frightened such as a large dog or a bird are a great deterrent to would be intruders. Often, a dog barking or a screaming bird will prevent a typical burglar from even trying to invade to your home, whether you are in it or not. Burglars hate noise.

When it comes to making your home more secure, use common sense. Look closely at those areas of your home which you feel are most vulnerable and increase the amount of security that you have on them. But whatever type of security improvements you decide to make to your home, you must remember to keep them within the requirements of the law as you do not want to find yourself faced with a law suit by a burglar who was injured on your property. Yes, this DOES happen. You may not use anything that is intended to hurt someone For example, you cannot set up a booby trap on a door where the intention is to cause someone bodily harm even if that someone is a burglar whose intention may be to hurt you. Ridiculous, but true.

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# Chapter 4

## **Good Locks Help Make Your Home More Secure**

Often the locks that are typically installed on doors and windows will provide very little real protection against a burglar breaking into your home. In fact, most professional burglars can easily gain access to a person's home very quickly just by using a plastic credit card or a screwdriver.

Below, we provide some helpful information on the different kinds of locks that you should consider having installed on your home, by either yourself, or an accredited locksmith. By doing this, you will be making your home much more secure, and also providing far less opportunities for a burglar to break-in.

### **Cylinder Deadbolts**

The "long-stem" version of this type of door lock actually provides a great deal of protection, especially when used in conjunction with a good quality door handle with a lock.

These are most often surface mounted cylinder deadbolts and can easily be mounted on to any kind of door in a matter of minutes.

### **Tubular Deadbolts**

These types of locks add more protection to your

home, without actually looking unsightly, and they can be installed in any kind of door. They often require a person to have a key in order to unlock from either side. Keep in mind that this may cause problems when you are actually trying to leave the property in an emergency situation. But there are some now which can be opened without a key being used on the inside.

The reason why these types of locks are so effective is that, when in the locked position, they have a bolt which comes through several holes before it goes into the strike. This particular type of lock then makes it more difficult for a door to be jimmied. However the surface mounted cylinder deadbolts do not actually offer the same kind of protection as those that are mounted within the door and frame.

Therefore you need to take time out to examine the locks you already have in place in your home, and if you find them either to be old, wearing out or have failed, then it is about time that you replaced them. In order to provide you with better protection for your home, install either new, or additional locks as soon as possible (immediately preferably). Although you may consider this to be a waste of time and money, which would you prefer:

Knowing that your home is secure and everything is well protected, or letting any burglar know that they can gain access to your home anytime that they want to.

## Chapter 5

# How To Make Your Windows More Secure

Certainly most types of glass windows can easily be shattered just like any other form of glass. But any burglar, given the choice, would prefer the quietest way of gaining access to property, a way without having to resort to such a noisy method as breaking glass.

Unfortunately, when breaking glass, a burglar knows that it makes a very distinctive noise, and is therefore likely to attract unwanted attention. Also, there is a high risk of them actually cutting themselves while they are carrying out the procedure. They know that the chances of them being caught are highly increased because of the use of DNA samples, which provide law enforcement agencies with a very good way of identifying any intruder into a property.

Although some burglars will break windows in order to gain access to people's homes, most prefer to only use a window which is already open or unlocked. The problem is that in a lot of home burglaries, the actual burglar has not even had to try to open one, as the home owner has left one open (whether by mistake or deliberately).

But often is the case with people who do have locks on their windows, the locks are very weak, and in a lot of cases, people only have latches fitted to their windows. With these installed, a burglar will usually have no difficulty at all in breaking

in to a person's home in just a matter of seconds or at most a few minutes.

However today, there are plenty of good quality window locks now available which a person can install and they don't cost an arm and a leg. But although there are plenty of window locks now available, exactly which are the right ones for your home in order to protect your windows from being a potential access point for a burglar? Below we will take a look at the various different types of window locks a person can now use.

### **Thumb Turn Locks**

These types of locks are not secured using a key, and are great way of preventing the windows on your home from being opened from the outside. The only way a burglar could attempt to try and open one of these would be from them having to smash the glass in the window in order to gain access to the lock itself, and then operating it. Although they may have to smash the glass to gain access to the lock, once they have, they will lessen their chances of being cut by any glass afterwards because they can then open the window completely.

### **Key Locks**

These are the best kind of locks for helping to secure windows. It is best that you remove the key from the lock once the window has been closed, but ensure that it is in a location where it can easily be reached, and ensure that all members of the family know exactly where it is. You don't want any members of your family being caught when there is a fire in the home and they can not find the key to get the window open. You may also find that if a certain window has been designated as an escape route from your property in case of a fire or other sorts of emergencies, then you may find that the local building codes actually prevent you from fitting a key lock to this particular window.

Therefore you need to confirm through your local building authority what the codes are, and what they require you to do.

The other reason for fitting key locks to windows, especially on the upper floors of your home, is that they could prevent young children from falling out of them. Unfortunately, as children grow older, they become a little more inquisitive, and it will only take them a matter of seconds to be able to undo the lock and open the window.

The great thing about installing good quality window locks in your home is that they are visible to those outside your home. Once a burglar sees these, he then knows what he is going to be facing, and certainly if he feels that it is going to be difficult to gain access because it is likely to draw attention to them, then they may well decide it is best to go and look elsewhere and see what the next house can offer them instead.

You may well find that you might have to fit more than one lock on each window, but this will depend on the actual size of them. Therefore, the larger the window, then the more strain is going to be put on the lock as the burglar attempts to gain access by forcing it. Also do not forget to place locks on even small windows you may have in your home, as there are some burglars who can gain access through very small spaces, or who will use a child as an accomplice in order to help them gain access into your home.

Also, never forget to install locks on the windows on the upper floors of your home. Although you may not think this is necessary because a burglar will not attempt to use one in order to gain access to your home, they will. Remember, a burglar will use a ladder if necessary, and often it has either come from your own backyard, or that of your neighbors.

Certainly the chances of a burglar going elsewhere

to gain access to a home to take a person's possessions are greatly increased if you have good quality window locks fitted on your own home.

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# Chapter 6

## Lights Are a Great Deterrent

One of the best deterrents a person can install in order to help improve security on their home is lights. You have the choice of either mounting floodlights, or spotlights at each corner of your home, which will then flood the walls of the property and provide no shadow or area where a burglar can sit or stand undetected.

All lights are relatively easy to install, and can be quite inexpensive to buy, but they are an extremely effective way of helping to prevent a break in from occurring at your home.

### **Spotlights**

These can either be single or double models, but generally most security consultants will suggest that you have the double versions installed.

### **Floodlights**

Again, as with the spotlights, these come in single and double models, and again it is recommended that if you are going to install floodlights, you install those which have a double floodlight on them. This type of light actually provides more light around a property than a spotlight, as spotlights are directed towards a particular area.

But whichever kind of light you decide to install outside your home, it is best that you place them high enough so that a burglar cannot easily gain

access to them. Generally, spotlights are mounted about half way up the sides of a home, while a floodlight can be mounted much higher up and at the end of the house.

When installing your lights, you should mount them at the corners, or ends, of your home, and they should be placed in such a way that they illuminate the various areas of your yard where a burglar is likely to hide. So aim them towards bushes, walls, screens and trees. Also, mount the lights in those locations around your home which you feel are going to provide any would be burglar with a place that they can hide. Say, for example, your garage is separate from your house, and there is a walk way in between, make sure to mount one that illuminates this space. Also, if you have any type of shed or gazebo in your garden, then arrange to have a light mounted that is directed towards this area too.

Today, most spotlights and floodlights can actually be directly wired into the wiring system that you already have in your home. If you are unsure what you need to do, you can hire a qualified electrician who will be able to install the wiring for you.

When it actually comes to installing any kind of external lighting, you should install as many as you possibly can without actually causing a nuisance to your neighbors. Certainly, the more lighting, the more effective it will be at helping to prevent the possibility of a burglar breaking into your home. Also, use plug-in timers which can then turn the lights on and off while you are away from the property (say on vacation). But as well as using timers for external lighting, you can also use them on internal lights as well. However, when using timers, it is best to ensure that you set them so that they do not all come on at once or at the same time each day. Instead, set them at various intervals. Say you set one to come on at 8 o'clock in the evening, then you can set the next

one to come on at, say, 11 o'clock at night. By using these variations, it provides any casual observer with an idea that there is someone in the home at all times.

Or if you want, with the outside lights, especially if you use spotlights, you can get automatic timers installed into the main power line to your home. Through these timers, a person can then set the lights to come on at set intervals. However, these kinds of timers can only be installed by a qualified electrician.

Certainly, installing good quality lighting to the outside of your home is one of the most inexpensive, yet very effective ways, of helping to reduce the chances of a break in occurring in your home. However, it is important that any time any of the bulbs burn out, they should be replaced immediately, or else your lighting will become completely ineffective in helping to prevent a break-in.

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# Chapter 7

## **Some Simple Door Alarm Systems**

There are different kinds of battery operated door alarms which a person can now install on the doors of their home.

These work on the principle that, as soon as the door is opened or sometimes just abruptly attacked, then the alarm goes off. Certainly, once it has been triggered, it is loud enough to wake up anyone inside the house, and is also a great way of scaring off a burglar.

It is important, however, that the alarm you do install is a good quality one, and will work for extended periods of time. Also, you should only use high quality batteries in the alarm so it remains functioning correctly. Unfortunately, a battery that is dead will not keep the system working properly, and in fact, the system will be completely useless, and this is when the burglar will have more opportunity to gain access to your home.

There are now also ultrasonic alarm devices available for doors which, although are expensive compared to the battery operated ones, are very effective indeed.

This particular type of alarm is placed in the corner of a room and it contains a transmitter and receiver, which then saturate the room with ultrasonic sound waves. These waves bounce off the

walls in every direction, when these waves are broken, the alarm is triggered. This particular type of system, once triggered, can then turn a light on, or sound an alarm, or do both at once.

You may also want to consider a wireless intercom unit in your home as this allows you to hear certain key noises if they occur around the home. Some such systems require no wiring to be installed and usually they can be plugged directly into an electrical socket in any room of the home. Also these systems allow a person to communicate with people in other rooms in the house, as well as allowing you to hear what is happening throughout the house. There are many different types of systems now available, and as mentioned, some do not need wiring as they are wireless, while others still do.

The great thing about many of these systems is that they are pretty inexpensive and quite easy to install. If you are unsure about what you are doing, and where exactly you should be installing them, contact a reputable home security service, and they should be able to provide you with the assistance that you require.

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# Conclusion

All homes contain items that are extremely valuable to us, if not others and so it's only sensible that we should ensure that our home is well protected against any possible invasion attempts.

Certainly in this guide we have provided you with some very simple ways of helping to make sure your home much more secure, and which will hopefully help to prevent a burglar from seeing your home as an easy opportunity to remove your valuable possessions from it.

Adding multiple home security devices (and possibly a burglar alarm) helps to ensure that the chances of your home being broken into are greatly reduced. But at the end of the day, they will also provide you with the peace of mind that you would not otherwise have if you had not taken the appropriate measures to ensure that your home is much more secure.

Hopefully some of the ideas we have presented in this guide will help you to find multiple ways to improve your home security. This will not only make your home secure, but ensures that those who live there are much more safe and secure.

All burglars are opportunists, they will look for homes that they feel offer them the best opportunity to get in and out of the fastest and easiest without ever being seen or caught.

It is very important that you take time to look at your property as if you were a burglar and make the improvements to those areas of your home which you feel would offer a burglar the most opportunities to easily break into your home.

**Please Feel Free To Pass This Guide On To Your  
Family and Friends - They'll Appreciate Your  
Concern!**

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