



SAFE GUARDING YOUR HOME

SHUT OUT Burglars

5 Key Components to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

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

1. Surveillance The ability for people to see and be seen by day and by night	4. Evidence of Activity Providing a sense of occupancy at all times
2. Lighting Interior and exterior, on timers when it starts to get dark	5. Neighborhood Watch Neighbors watching out for each other
3. Physical Security Locks, hardware and structural elements	

These 5 components are incorporated into the 3 primary areas of a residence:

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.

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.

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.

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
MINUTES

THIS IS HOW LONG THE AVERAGE
BURGLARY TAKES!



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.

SOLID ADVICE ON DOORS

WOODEN ENTRANCE DOORS

All wooden entrance doors should be of solid core construction and at least 1 ¾ 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. This allows the pin to anchor the moving door to the stationary door frame. 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.





SHEDDING SOME LIGHT

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.

PROS + CONS OF DIFFERENT LIGHTING

INCANDESCENT OR HALOGEN LAMPS

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

CONS: Short life spans and they 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.



THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF:

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



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.

4 KEY DETERRENTS



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 another individual.



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



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.



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.”