

Home Security & Safety Checklist

The questions on this form are answered "Yes" or "No. Because each question suggests a recommendation, "No" answers will alert you to areas that could be improved.

Perimeter Security

Doors

Yes No

- Do all your exterior doors have a good-quality deadbolt lock with no less than a 1" throw?
- Are all latch-strike plates on your exterior doors secured with at least 3" screws?
- Do your exterior doors having glass within 3 feet of the lock have double-cylinder deadbolts installed on them?
- Do all your exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door viewer installed for identifying visitors?
- Are all exterior doors constructed of solid wood?
- Have you changed the locks since moving into your home or apartment?
- Do you always lock all your doors when you are home for the night or when you leave your residence?

Sliding Glass Doors

Yes No

- Do all your sliding glass doors have at least one of the following?
 - track lock
 - insertion pin lock
 - hinged door bar
 - metal or wooden dowel in track
- Do your auxiliary locks prevent the door from being lifted out of it track?

Garage Doors

Yes No

- If your overhead garage door is equipped with an automatic opener, does it use a "rolling code" to foil "code grabbers"?
- If your overhead garage door is not equipped with an automatic opener, does it have good-quality padlocks on both sides of the door?
- Do you exterior man-door and the door from the garage into your home have quality deadbolts? Are they always used?
- Do you always close your overhead garage door, even when you are home?

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Windows

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all your windows secured with an auxiliary keyed window lock? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are the keys readily available in an emergency? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you do not have keyed locks, are your windows additionally secured by pins or nails? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have your auxiliary window locks been installed to allow ventilation while maintaining security? |

Exterior Lighting

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is your front entrance lit well enough to enable you to identify visitors at night? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all other entrances illuminated well? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do floodlights or some other type of area illumination cover all exterior sections of your home or property? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do motion sensors control your exterior lighting? |

Landscaping

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all your bushes, trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate areas for a person to hide near your doors and windows? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have tree limbs been trimmed to prevent access to upper floor windows or balconies? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you planted "prickly" or thorny shrubbery near windows to discourage loitering or hiding? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is all outdoor foliage trimmed to prevent obstruction of exterior lighting? |

Exterior Entries and Possessions

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all your gates locked with a quality, weatherproof padlock? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all sheds or outbuildings secured with a quality, weatherproof padlock? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all valuables stored outside (bikes, ladders, lawn mowers, motorcycles, etc.) secured to a fixed, immovable object? |

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Swimming Pool Safety

Yes No

- Are all exterior doors leading to your pool area equipped with a specific door alarm that alerts you when someone has entered?
- If your pool area has a secondary fence, are the gates secured with a gate lock or auxiliary padlock?
- Is your pool area or property line surrounded by at least a 6 foot high fence?
- Is every member of your household trained in CPR?

Interior Security

While You're Away

Yes No

- Do you have several lights in your home set up on automatic timers?
- Do you have a working home alarm system?
- Do you always remember to arm the alarm before you leave?
- Did you know that your alarm systems should be armed when you will be in your backyard for any length of time?
- Do you discontinue mail and newspaper service when away from home on vacation or business?
- Do you arrange for a friend or neighbor to come by and check on your home when you plan on being away several days or longer?
- Does your telephone answering machine avoid announcing: "We're not home right now?"

Gun Safety

Yes No

- Are all guns safely stored in a locked box, safe, or vault?
- Are all guns stored separately from the ammunition?
- Are guns that are intended for home protection equipped with a trigger guard lock?
- Have all members of your household been trained to treat every gun as though it were loaded?

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Home Safety

Fire and Carbon Monoxide

Yes No

Do you have a smoke detector in each of the following areas?

- hallways near bedrooms
- near family room and kitchen
- top of any stairway
- garage

Are there carbon monoxide detectors in the same areas as your smoke detectors? Is there an additional carbon monoxide detector near your furnace?

Are there ABC-type fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage, and basement?

Do all members of your household know exactly what to do in case of fire or other emergency?

Do you test your smoke detectors once a month?

Do you replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year? (Hint: Do this when we change our clocks from standard time to daylight savings time and back.)

Are all flammables in stored in original, marked containers away from sources of heat or flame?

Are all your valuable documents and possessions stored in a fire-rated safe?

Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked “no” indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home’s security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

Exterior Doors

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house—even if it’s just for a few minutes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The sliding glass door has a strong, working key locks. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Protecting Windows

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outdoor Security

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

continued on back

Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.

Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.

Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

Yes No

At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.

The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.

Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.

A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Yes No

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.

Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.

Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.

Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.

Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.

Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.

Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.

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