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How does a burglar get into your home?

- #1 - through the front door.
- #4 - through the garage.
- #5 - through unlocked entrances and storage areas.
- #6 - through the basement.
- #7 - through the second floor windows.

Other burglary facts...

- Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home.
- The more a burglar has to work, the less chance you have of becoming a victim.
- A burglar will bypass your home if it requires too much effort or requires more skill and tools than they have cover, and with the best escape routes.
- A burglar is less likely to attempt to enter a well-lit residence.
- Most burglars enter homes through an open or unlocked window or door.
- One out of every four burglaries involves forced entry.
- The most common way used to force entry through a door with a wooden frame is to kick it open.
- The majority of home burglaries occur during the daytime when people are away at work or at school.
- Most home burglars are looking for things that are small, expensive, and can be converted to cash (jewelry, guns, watches, small antiques, laptop computers).

Secure your front door or entrance.

- All doors should be hung with hinges on the inside.
- Replace hollow core outer doors with solid wood or metal doors.
- Install deadbolt locks that have at least a one inch throw bolt.
- Insure that there is at least forty inches between adjoining windows and door. If you have windows on or near your doors, install a double cylinder deadbolt that requires a key to open from the outside and the inside.
- Install a wide-angle security peephole in your door and use it to screen visitors before opening the door.
- Install an ornamental iron screen door (available at most home improvement stores) that opens out rather than in.
- Maintain good lighting, especially at front entrances.
- Remove bushes or other items that obstruct view of windows or doors.
- Never hide your keys outside. Give an extra key to a friend or family member instead.
- Never put an identification tag on your key ring.
- Re-key locks when you move into a new house or apartment.

Secure your windows.

- Ensure that all windows have working locks.
- Use window pins, track fillers or a wood pole to prevent windows from opening more than four inches.
- Cut back tree limbs that could use to climb to an upper-level window
- Store ladders or other objects that would allow a burglar to reach your roof or second story windows.
- Secure basement windows with grilles, grates or glass block.
- Secure roof openings, air conditioners and exhaust systems.
- Window air conditioning units should be bolted to the wall to prevent them from being easily removed from the outside.
- Consider installing window grates or grilles (but make sure the devices can be easily detached to allow quick escape during a fire or other emergency).
- Consider laminated, tempered, wired or plastic windows.

Secure your back entrances and yard.

- Secure back doors and entrances in the same manner as front entrances.
- For sliding glass door use window pins, track fillers or a wood pole to prevent the door from being forced open. Use locking devices that secure the doors to the frame or track.
- Adjusting the sliding door's track clearances so they can't be pushed or lifted out of their tracks.
- Consider removing or replacing a privacy fence that may provide cover for a burglar.
- A barking dog is a proven deterrent to burglars.
- Add sufficient lighting to the back and sides of your home.
- Install a hedge around the perimeter of your yard. Hedges should be wide, rather than high, and of a prickly, thorny variety.

Secure garages and out buildings.

- Padlock garages and out buildings when not in use...
- Make sure to keep your garage door closed, even if you're only going to be away for a few minutes.
- Put away items like sports equipment, lawn mowers, portable grills and bicycles.

Provide adequate lighting.

- Use outdoor lighting to diminish places to hide.
- Use indoor lighting to give the impression that a home is occupied.
- Keep any entryways well lit.
- Use motion detecting flood lights aimed into the yard and other approach paths.
- Place lights out of reach so that the bulbs can't be removed broken.
- Use timers on indoor lights near the front and back windows with the curtains drawn.
- Exterior lights left on all day are a giveaway that you are out of town. Use timers or photo-cells on external lights to turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn.

Use good locks.

- Use high quality locks that resist twisting, prying, and lock-picking attempts.
- A quality deadbolt lock will have a beveled casing to resist channel-lock pliers used for forced entry.
- A quality door knob lock set will have a dead-latch mechanism to prevent slipping the lock with a shim or credit card.
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt.
- Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame and stud.

When your house is unoccupied.

- Ask a neighbor or friend to watch your home when you're away.
- Ask a neighbor or friend to pickup your paper, handbills, mail, mow your lawn or bring in your trash receptacle while you're away.
- Put a hold on your mail and deliveries while on vacation.
- Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions.
- Never leave an "I'm away!" message on your answering machine or front door.

General home security tips.

- Make a list of your valuables - VCRs, stereos, computers, jewelry. Take photos of the items, list their serial numbers and description.
- Engrave your valuables.
- Don't leave keys in your car.
- Don't dispose of new appliance boxes in public.
- Place highly visible decals on the glass door near the latch mechanism that indicates that an alarm system, a dog, or block watch/operation identification is in place.
- Get to know all your adjacent neighbors and agree to watch out for each other's home.
- Use light timers to turn on radios or television sets to enhance the illusion of occupancy.
- Consider a home safe to protect the jewelry, small collections, handguns, important documents, medications, and irreplaceable family heirlooms and pictures.
- Make sure that your address is clearly visible from the street during the day and night.

At any time Alert Alarms can provide further assistance, please give us a call.