

SCS POLICE CRIME WATCH

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

The chance of being seen and possibly identified is the burglar's biggest fear, they don't want a confrontation of any kind. Most burglars allow themselves 1-2 minutes to get into a home. A good security strategy slows burglars down extending their break in time, giving the homeowner a chance. Home security can be substantially increased just by changing a few simple and inexpensive, but effective prevention steps.

That's why we are here today, to talk about ways you can deter the burglar and secure your home at the same time.

Take this exterior entry door for example. If you install a high quality lock and the door is attached to a weak frame it remains vulnerable to forced entry. It's like putting a padlock on a paper bag.

The door really needs 3 things to make it an effective barrier: **The Door, Door Frame, & Lock**

The door itself should be a solid core door. You can put an escutcheon plate around the deadbolt to make it more secure and to keep the door from splitting around the deadbolt. Some steel doors are adequately protected w/out the escutcheon plate.

The frame or door jam can be weak. It is actually the weakest part of the door assembly. Anchoring the strike plate to the door frame is crucial. Attaching the strike plate with the screws it comes with offers little or no protection against the frame failing. I recommend replacing those screws with 2 ¾ - 3 inch screws. They also make a high security strike plate with off set screws that screw right into the studs.

Be careful putting longer screws in frames that have side windows. The windows look nice but they make it harder to secure the frame and it also leaves the burglar a way in, by simply breaking the window. There is a film you can put on over the glass that would make the glass more secure called polycarbonate glazing. Laminated glass is also used, it's the same kind of glass used in car windshields.

As far as the deadbolt is concerned, first of all you have to use it. Second make sure your deadbolt has a steel bolt at least 1 inch in length. Although deadbolts look the same on the outside what's on the inside is what counts. Get a Quality Deadbolt Make sure the deadbolt meets ANSI grade 2 testing standards.

You can replace the screws in the hinges but this is rarely an issue.

Patio Doors

Although patio doors are primarily glass most burglars don't want to break it to get in:

1. Too much noise
2. Possibility of getting cut
3. Most are made w/Laminated glass

They prefer to try and pry the sliding door open by lifting it out off the track or forcing it open. To prevent forcing the door open, a secondary locking device can be used, it reinforces the door lock. Pins installed or a simple Charlie bar or a cut piece of wood or pvc in the track.

To keep the door in the track you can evenly space screws in the upper slide track. Leaving the head of the screws protruding down just enough to allow free movement of the door.

Windows

Now lets take a look at the windows. Basement windows are usually fairly flimsy and easy to break into. I recommend replacing them with glass block, but you have to leave one for an access for escape if needed. Then again you can use the glazing or tempered glass on that one.

With Double hung or sliding windows you can put a pin, pvc or a block of wood in the track to keep someone from being able to force open the window.

Lighting

Lighting is a key in any effective deterrent for burglars. Not only does it benefit against burglars but it also assists the police with finding street addresses and at the same time providing the entire neighborhood a more secure feeling. I recommend you leave a porch light on during the night and having motion sensor lights for the sides or rear.

That way it isn't in your neighbors windows, but it will startle the burglar when it comes on and at the same time alert you that someone/something had just set the light off.

Landscaping

Make sure bushes and shrubs are not blocking any doors or windows and are well maintained. This serves as two forms of deterrent:

1. The burglar uses the landscaping as cover and concealment. When they can hide behind the landscaping it increases their allotted time to gain entry into your home.
2. It also shows that you maintain your home and the burglar automatically thinks if you keep your house up you probably have it adequately secure. They are going to move on to someone who doesn't look like they take care of there things making them an easy target.

Misc Security Tips

Alarm Systems and Stickers

Neighborhood Watch Signs and Stickers

Beware of Dog Signs

And of course my personal favorite a **“DOG”**. Any dog of any breed, large or small really does serve as a deterrent. Obviously the bigger watch dog types are going to be more effective but really any dog will work. But you have to do your job...when your dog is barking at something you have to get up and look to see what it is barking at. Too many times I have responded to runs where the homeowner said “My dog was barking at something last night but I didn’t get up to see” and now their car is gone etc....the dog did their job you have to do yours.

If for whatever reason you don’t want a dog, fake the burglar out by making them think you have one. Put a large dog bowl in the yard with maybe a toy or two. They even make something that you can leave in your house that has dogs barking.

Just as a reminder lock your doors and windows, don’t make it easy for them to gain entry!

That’s it for our show on home security, I hope you can use some of the information we talked about.

Until the next time on SCS POLICE EYE ON CRIME!