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.

Reliable estimates from reports and analysis indicate that this is how long (in minutes) the average burglary takes.

• Surveillance
  The ability for people to see and be seen by day and by night

• Lighting
  Interior and exterior, on timers when it starts to get dark

• Physical Security
  Locks, hardware and structural elements

• Evidence of Activity
  Providing a sense of occupancy at all times

• Neighborhood Watch
  Neighbors watching out for each other

Most law enforcement agencies promote the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as the most effective way to confront crime. This environmental approach incorporates the above five key aspects into three specific areas of a residence, each of which is equally important to address.

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.
Shedding Some Light

• **Incandescent or Halogen Lamps**
  **Pros:** The advantages are that they produce a bright light, are easy to control and are compact.
  **Cons:** These live short lives and 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.

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. The pin anchors the moving door to the stationary doorframe. Drill the holes and install the pin, angled upwards, to prevent it from being shaken out of place. 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.

Heavy Light Facts

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.

ADEQUATE LIGHTING IS ONE OF THE BEST AND EASIEST WAYS TO DETER CRIMINALS.

—SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
Make This a **Priority**

Equip all single- or double-entrance doors with a single-cylinder deadbolt lock. The bolt should have a minimum projection of one inch and be constructed to foil a cutting tool attack. The bolt should be embedded at least one inch into the strike plate. The cylinder should have a cylinder guard, a minimum five-pin tum-bler and should be connected to the inner portion of the lock by connecting screws.

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**No Invitation Needed**

Windows and doors left open for ventilation or for pets to access offer an invitation to would-be burglars.

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**KEY TIP**

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

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**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.

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**Credit the San Diego Sheriff’s Department**

The information presented here is reprinted with permission from the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department.

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**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.”

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**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.
### Residential 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 your home is targeted.*

#### Doors
- **Yes □ No □** Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- **Yes □ No □** Door hinges are protected from removal from the outside.
- **Yes □ No □** Windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks have been reinforced.
- **Yes □ No □** All doors are secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw.
- **Yes □ No □** Doors are equipped with a 4-inch strike plate.
- **Yes □ No □** Doors are equipped with a 180-degree viewer.

#### Windows
- **Yes □ No □** All windows have adequate locks.
- **Yes □ No □** Windows have screens.
- **Yes □ No □** Windows are free from concealing structures or landscaping.
- **Yes □ No □** A secondary security device is utilized.
- **Yes □ No □** Exterior, exposed screws have been replaced or defaced.

#### Garage
- **Yes □ No □** Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- **Yes □ No □** Garage is on a multi-frequency.
- **Yes □ No □** The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.

#### Interior
- **Yes □ No □** If alarms are utilized, they are maintained and tested.
- **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 period of time.