

PROTECT YOUR HOME WHEN YOU ARE AWAY



How to Protect Your Home When You Are Away

Don't be a home burglary victim. Take the time and effort to make it tough for anyone to get in. Better safe than sorry.

Make sure it appears you are home while you're away. Light and moderate noise may deter burglars.

Use plug-in timers on lamps to realistically simulate occupancy.

Leave shades and blinds as you usually do. However, make sure the garage windows are covered so no one can see if your car(s) are in there.

Use timers to have the TV or radio come on and turn off during the day and at night.

Have lawns mowed, sidewalks swept, hedges clipped on schedule. Trim all shrubbery around windows so would-be burglars can't use them for cover.

Lock all exterior doors securely. All exterior doors should have dead-bolt locks. Lock gates to yard.

Realize that ordinary windows are easily smashed, but still use safety latches on the windows to keep *below-average crooks honest* and preschoolers in-/out-side.

Form a neighborhood crime watch with the assistance of your local police department. Team work, cooperation, & common sense can help make or break a neighborhood. Report anything suspicious.

Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your property when you are away. Do the same for them. **Check all nearby streetlights to be sure they are functional.** If not, contact your electricity company to request a repair. Would-be intruders are not as fond of well-lit areas.

Arrange to have a neighbor pick up your mail, circulars and newspapers when you are on vacation. If that isn't possible, cancel all deliveries, including newspapers. Arrange with your post office to hold your mail or leave it with a neighbor.

Never advertise your departure. This may be easier said than done, especially for those who often share personal information on social networking sites (such as Facebook and Twitter).

Install locks that wedge and bolt in sliding doors and double hung windows.



Invest in a good alarm system. Check with the Better Business Bureau to be sure the security company is reliable. At the very least, buy one of those alarm company signs. eBay is good for that.

Request a Security Check from GPD while you are away. The form is located at <https://pd.georgetown.org/files/2014/01/Security-Check-Form0001.pdf> Be sure to read the fine print! Print out the form, fill it in, and take it to GPD, at 809 Martin Luther King Blvd.

**GEORGETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY RESOURCES DIVISION
512.930.3510
www.pd.georgetown.org**

