

**PROTECT YOUR HOME WHILE YOU'RE 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.

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