

# Burglary prevention

According to the latest surveys, theft makes up approximately 75% of all crimes that are reported.

According to the same survey, thieves' favorite entrances into our homes are as listed below:

81% enter through a first floor door or window.

34% enter through the front door.

23% enter through a first-floor window.

22% enter through the back door.

9% enter through the garage.

4% enter through the basement or an unlocked entrance.

2% enter through a storage area.

With the above thoughts in mind, please consider using the following safety measures:

## Exterior Doors

Doors should be made of metal, steel or solid core wood construction.

Doors should be free of visible weakness like rot, cracks and warping.

Doors should have a quality constructed deadbolt lock. Chain locks are not sufficient but could assist a deadbolt for additional protection.

If you have a mail slot in your door, you need a mail cage or box catcher. Without the mail catcher, the thief can use a wire and cord to unlock your door from the inside.

Everyone likes to have glass on their doors. However, glass does pose a particular problem. When broken, all the thief has to do is reach in and unlock your door.

Don't hide spare keys in obvious or popular locations like under the mat, a pot or rock.

A peephole is an easy way to see who is at the door first.

Install what is called a bump resistant lock.

## Sliding Glass Doors

Quality sliders should have locks at the top and the bottom of the operative panel.

An extra precaution would be to put something as long as the sliding door in the track like a broom handle cut to length or piece of wood or metal when door is not being used.

The frames should not be able to be jimmed out of their tracks.

## Lighting things Up

You should have a light installed on each side of your house on the exterior. Thieves love the cover of darkness.

When out for the evening, you should leave a few lights on inside and out.

Motion sensor lights will activate at movement and then go off when not necessary.

## Windows

All windows should be of good quality and at least double pane.

You can have bars or grills installed. Just keep in mind that for proper emergency egress,

**the bars or grills have to open for possible escape.  
Windows should not be hidden behind shrubbery. If that is unavoidable, place some kind of lighting there instead.**

#### **Pet Doors**

**If you have to have a pet door in your home, make it as small as possible. A hand or wire can unlock your door if reach inside is accessible.**

**Try an electronic pet door that only opens after your pet approaches with a device on his collar.**

**A thief could convince a child to crawl through the opening and unlock the door for him.**

#### **Other thoughts**

**If you don't have a dog, you can still post beware of dog signs in the yard.**

**If you don't have an alarm, you can still post security stickers on the windows or in the yard.**

**Have lights and radios on timers when you are away.**

**A car always parked in the driveway, even a neighbors, while you are away.**

**Fences are good deterrents but don't totally depend on them.**

**Keep landscaping pruned away from entrances and windows.**