

Most

Burglaries are

Crimes of

Opportunity!

Most

Burglars will

Not enter a

Residence if

They think

You are

Home or if

You

Make it

Difficult for

Them to

Enter!



DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR BURGLARS TO WORK!

- Lock doors and windows
- Avoid obvious signs of absence by keeping newspapers and flyers picked up.
- Know your neighbors so you will know who's a stranger.
- Cooperate with Police and report losses quickly.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

1. **Report any suspicious person** in the area to the Police. What is the suspicious person wearing, which direction did they leave?
2. **What is the license plate** number on the suspect vehicle, make, model and direction vehicle last seen leaving the area.
3. **Tell a neighbor** when you will be gone for a couple of days. Ask them to watch your home and property.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE HAD A BURGLARY IN YOUR RESIDENCE OR APARTMENT...

- **Touch Nothing!** If you feel someone is still in your home, leave immediately and call the police from an outside phone (i.e. friends phone or cell phone)
- If neighbors tell you they saw or heard something suspicious, **TELL THE POLICE!**
- Make a list of missing property and approximate values.
- If you have serial numbers for your missing property or

pictures, provide them to the police.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM BURGLARS:

1. **Update locks** when you change houses or apartments
2. **Have good, safe locks** on all doors. Lock your doors when you leave, even if it's a few minutes.
3. **Windows should be locked** when you leave your residence.
4. **Sliding glass doors** are particularly vulnerable because they are most often located in the rear of the residence where Burglars are less detected. Sliding door security is aimed to prevent an intruder from sliding it open and being pried out of the track.
5. **If an intruder** can't get into your doors, windows are the next best bet. Those on garden level or first floor are most vulnerable, but do not overlook the second floor windows. A determined Burglar will do climbing if he/she wants to. A Burglar usually tries all windows before breaking one. Breaking a window causes noise and can alert a neighbor of something suspicious.
6. **Don't hide extra keys** in the mailbox, under the doormat, over the door or in some likely place. If you can hide it, a burglar can find it. If you want one close by, leave one with a trusted neighbor.
7. **Don't let strangers** into your home. Talk to strangers through the **locked** screen

- door. Ask for identification. People on legitimate business will gladly show you identification.
8. **Outside lighting** is a good deterrent to prowlers. Ask yourself if your outside lights are bright enough to read a newspaper and if all of your lights are working.
 9. **Keep all shrubs** around windows and window wells trimmed so the Burglar does not have a place to hide while trying to pry open your window.
 10. **When leaving** for an evening, make your home looked occupied. Leave a light on inside the house, do not leave notes when you will return.
 11. **Be prepared** to minimize your loss if you are burglarized. Do not keep large amounts of cash inside your home. Keep records of serial numbers of your electronics, IPODs, Camera, XBOXs, Playstations, Cell phones, etc.
 12. **Jewelry** should be put into a safe deposit box or fire safe box with a lock. Keep pictures of your jewelry.
 13. **When returning home** check for indicators of a possible break in. If anything seems suspicious, **DO NOT ENTER! CALL THE POLICE.**
 14. **Use initials** with your last name on your mail box. Using your first name could let a criminal know that you live alone.
 15. **Have your keys out** and ready before you walk to your car or residence.
 16. **Install an alarm** and or at least post signs on the doors and windows "showing" a burglar that the residence has an alarm (even if you don't,

- the burglar does not know that)
17. **Close garage doors** whether you are home or away. Opened doors while you are home could show Burglars what you have inside your garage to take while you are gone. Empty garages could show burglars that the house could be vacant and invite someone to try and break in to stay the night.
 18. **Report broken street lights** in your neighborhood. Well lit area discourage burglars by taking away their hiding places.
 19. **Keeps your vehicles locked** if you park them outside. Remove your garage door opener so a burglar does not have access to your home while you are away.

**MOST
RESIDENTIAL
BURGLARIES
OCCURE DURING
THE DAY OR
EARLY EVENING
WHEN YOU
ARE OUT ONLY
FOR A SHORT
TIME!**



Maintain an

"occupied"

Look at your

Home while

You are gone.



SAFETY TIPS FOR

APARTMENT DWELLERS:

1. **Change locks** when you move into a new apartment and notify management.
2. **Never allow strangers** into your apartment. Keep locks fastened and refer solicitors to the managers office.
3. **Develop a buddy system** with your neighbors. Be alert for suspicious people or sounds in the hallways or parking lots and notify management or the police.
4. **Women living alone** should not put "Miss", "Ms" or "Mrs" on their mailboxes which could indicate you live alone.
5. **Keep outer main doors locked** if you live in a secured building. Try to work with other tenants to keep the door locked and only allow people you know into the building.
6. **Keep mailboxes empty** if you are away try to arrange for a close friend or the manager to pick up your mail.
7. **Check references** of housekeepers and others who may work inside your apartment when you are not there.

VACATION SECURITY FOR YOUR HOME WHILE YOU ARE AWAY:

1. **Cancel newspaper delivery** or have a friend/neighbor pick up the newspapers from in front of your door.
2. **Have mail collected** daily or have the post office hold the mail for you while you are gone.
3. **Arrange** for someone to cut your grass or shovel your snow.
4. **If a car is left** parked outside, arrange to have it moved to different parking spaces periodically so a burglar feels someone is watching it.
5. **Turn lights on** at night and off during the daylight hours using a timing device or a friend.



If you are not the ones on vacation- be a good neighbor and report any suspicious activity to the Aurora Police Department at 303-627-3100.

HOME SECURITY CHECK

Begin your home security check with the front door and work clockwise around the entire outside Of the house. Include all doors and windows, finishing with the back yard, fence and shrubs, gates and garage. Burglars look for an easy point of entry. If you don't secure ALL doors and windows, the burglar will find the one you did **not** secure. This includes basement and second floors.

HOME SECURITY GROUNDS

Garages

DOORS CLOSED AT ALL TIMES

Should be secured because they contain
Ladders/tools that are helpful to burglars.
Attached garages provide visual cover and
Easy house access.

Interior Lighting

Use timing devices when home or
Away. Or leave a light on in rooms.



Exterior Flood Lights

Should illuminate parts of your yard that is
Hidden by shrubbery or fences.

Shrubs

Shrubbery should never block the
View at possible points of entry. This
Allows the burglar the opportunity the
Privacy and time to gain entry.

House Numbers

Should be large enough and placed on the home
where they are clearly visible for emergency vehicles.
They should contain reflective material for at night and
Contrasting color during the day.

Door Security



Doors and windows left unlocked or inadequately secured provide easy access to a home. Many crimes that are committed in the home, such as burglary, robbery and rape, happen as a result of a break in. They are crimes of opportunity. Criminals are far less likely to enter your home if access is difficult. Locks are a great deterrent in conjunction with other security measures such as good lighting and alarm systems provide greater protection.

*Does your front door have a glass window where people can look in? Burglars can look inside the window and see all your valuables throughout the residence.

SOLUTION? -Buy some kind of glass cover that can easily be applied to the window that will still allow light to come in, but will not allow the burglar or intruders to see inside your home. (Or put a towel over the door when you are not home)

POOR LOCKS = AN INVITATION TO BURGLARS. NOT EVERY LOCK REALLY LOCKS A DOOR.

Chain latches are not locks and are easily defeated by kicking or prying the door so
Screws pop out detaching the chain and
Wire.

DEAD BOLT LOCKS OFFER GOOD PROTECTION

The bolt should extend at least one inch beyond the door edge. Other locks that use an interlocking principle also offers good security.

*If glass is within 40 inches of the lock, a double cylinder deadbolt (keys for both sides) may be installed. This makes it difficult for the burglar to unlock the door when he has broken the glass and reached through the opening to the lock.

Window Security



Sliding glass doors are a prime entrance point for burglars because they are easily defeated. Try to place a metal bar across the part of the window that slides to keep the burglar from sliding the door open. Screens will not keep the window secure, Burglars will cut the screen and slide the window open to gain entry.

HOW TO SELECT A HOME

ALARM SYSTEM

A Home alarm system is one of the most effective deterrents to crime involving force entry. When used in combination with security measures like deadbolt locks, a house with an alarm system has a much better chance of avoiding break-ins.

HOW DO HOME ALARM SYSTEMS WORK?

SYSTEM CONTROL

A system will have an arming station allowing you to set in on a variety of levels. "Off" normally shuts off all system sensors and is used when people are home and going in and out of exterior doors or opening windows. "Away" normally activates all the system's sensors and is only used when no one is home. "Home" or "Stay" normally activates only the sensors which guard the exterior doors and windows, allowing you to freely move throughout the residence and still be protected.

DETECTION

The most basic function of any alarm system is detection. An alarm system can have a variety of sensors linked to the system control. Specialized and highly sensitive sensors detect a variety of events: Someone opening a door or window, someone walking through a specific area, smoke, a medical emergency, water pipes beginning to freeze, etc. A reputable alarm Company will be able to fit you with reliable technology for your situation.

ALERTING AND REACTION

When an alarm system is set off it sounds an audible alarm. The interior and/or exterior siren frightens an intruder or warns of fire. At the same time, if your system has monitors, it will send an alert to its monitoring station where a trained operator will notify law enforcement or emergency services.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD ALARM SYSTEM?

Important things to consider when looking for an alarm system:

Is the alarm system company reputable? You can check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the company. You can also find out if the alarm company is a member of an alarm association.

What warranties come with the system? How long does the warranty last? Get specifics about parts and labor coverage. Find out about the company's service hours.

What are the charges after the warranty expires?

How long do I have to wait if I need service?

How long with the emergency back up battery work after the AC power loss? (if there is one)

What happens if the system malfunctions?

Are there charges accrued if the alarm is activated and a representative has to call me, if so, when and how much is the fee?

How easy is the system to operate?

DON'T DEPEND ONLY UPON AN ALARM TO PROTECT YOU...BE SURE TO USE THE PROPER LOCKING DEVICES

Please feel free to contact the PAR Officer assigned to your area for questions about **HOME SECURITY** or for any other assistance required.

You can find phone numbers for your PAR Officer at www.auroragov.org or call the non-emergency number at 303-627-3100.