

# Celebrate Safe Communities: Home Safety

## 1. Lock doors and windows

- Lock all doors at night and every time you leave the house.
- Every window and sliding door has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Secure windows and sliding doors with secondary blocking devices (i.e a stick or wood)
- Use anti-lift devices to prevent windows and glass doors from being lifted out.

## 2. Crime-proof outside areas

- Lighting is one of the most cost-effective deterrents to burglary.
- Keep yard, porch, garage doors, pathways and entrances well-lit at night.
- Consider motion detecting lights which turn on automatically as someone approaches.
- Trim plants and shrubs that could serve as hiding places for criminals.
- Cut back tree limbs that could help thieves climb into windows
- Consider light timers for exterior lighting to establish a routine and appearance of occupancy.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**®

## Top 10 Tips for a Safe Home

### 1. Lock doors and windows

### 2. Crime-proof outside areas

### 3. Get to know your neighbors

### 4. Consider an alarm

### 5. Protect yourself with lock and key

### 6. Protect your home when traveling

### 7. Protect your valuables

### 8. Teach home safety to your kids

### 9. Have an emergency plan

### 10. Take a stand!

## 3. Get to know your neighbors

- Get to know your neighbors on each side of your home and across the street.
- Invite them into your home, communicate often, and establish trust.
- Ask neighbors to pick up mail and park in your driveway to give the appearance of occupancy while on vacation.
- Get to know each other's schedules so you can spot an unusual pattern.

## 4. Consider an alarm

- Display alarm company signs and decals on the windows and lawn; burglars will usually bypass a property with visible alarm signs.
- Don't write your alarm passcode on or near the alarm keypad.
- Alarms systems monitor for fire as well as burglary.
- Learn how to use your system properly!

## 5. Protect yourself with lock and key

- Don't hide keys. Leave a key with a trusted family member, friend or neighbor.
- Keep a list of everyone you give a copy of your keys to.
- Consider keys with protection against unauthorized duplication (i.e patent protected)
- All entryways should have a sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Use high quality Grade-1 or Grade-2 locks with a bolt that extends at least one inch to resist prying open or forceful entry
- Hardened steel inserts prevents bolts from being sawed off.

## 6. Protect your home when traveling

- Activate the alarm system (if you have one).
- Inform a trusted neighbor of your travel plans and ask them to collect mail and watch your home while away.
- Consider using automatic timers to switch interior lights on and off at preset times. Indoor lighting gives the impression of occupancy.
- For extended absences, consider hiring a trusted housesitter.
- Don't advertise your absence. Never leave a message on your answering machine that tells thieves you are away.



## 7. Protect your valuables

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- Grills, bicycles and other valuables left out in the open, should be hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Keep a home inventory of valuables including serial numbers, pictures, and sale receipts. Keep a complete copy somewhere out of the house.

## 8. Teach home safety to your kids

- Show them how to use the door and window locks, and the alarm system.
- Never let them allow anyone into your home without asking your permission.
- Never let a caller at the door or on the phone know that they're alone. Teach them to say "Mom can't come to the phone (or door) right now."
- Be sure they carry a house key with them in a safe place. Don't leave it under a mat or on a ledge outside the house.
- Be sure they know how to call 9-1-1, your area's emergency number, or the operator.

## 9. Have an emergency plan

- Have important phone numbers, including police and fire departments, by the phone.
- Establish a meeting place for family members; one place near your home and one outside your neighborhood.
- If something looks questionable - a slit screen, a broken window or an open door - don't go in. Call the police.
- If you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police.

## 10. Take a stand!

- Join a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, you can start one with help from local law enforcement.
- Work with neighbors and local government to organize community clean-ups. The cleaner your neighborhood, the less attractive it is to crime.
- Join neighbors, police, school officials, and civic groups in identifying, discussing, and solving (or get help to solve) troubling conditions in your community.

**Kwikset**



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Home Safety 

Top 10 Tips

CELEBRATE  
  
SAFE  
COMMUNITIES