



9 Home Security Tips



Your home is one of your most valuable possessions, along with everything inside. It is a place you want to feel safe and secure from the potential dangers of the outside world.

Employing and engaging in some basic best practices around home security is the first step to help create a secure environment for your loved ones and family. Consider these tips to help keep you and your family, and your possessions, safe and secure:

1. **Landscape with safety in mind.** As you walk around your property, look for areas that could be potential hiding spots for thieves, who look for the privacy that overgrown shrubbery may provide near your home. Try to keep good visibility near your home.
2. **Talk with your local police department.** If you have any concerns at all, ask your police department to come and inspect your home and property and provide suggestions to increase home security. They can also offer insight on past break-in trends in your area.

3. **Know your neighbours.** Take the time to meet and engage with people on your street and encourage them to watch out for any suspicious activity when you are not home.
4. **Lighting matters.** Lighting can set the right ambiance inside your home, but outdoor lighting can be the difference between your home being targeted – or not – by thieves. Motion-sensitive fixtures can help add security and provide light when needed. Also consider using automatic timers or a smart lightbulb that can be controlled remotely to turn lights on and off in various parts of the house to help make it seem like you are home.
5. **Avoid advertising that you've been shopping or are away.** Thieves look for and steal newly-delivered boxes on your front porch, a method called porch pirating, so consider having them delivered elsewhere or requiring a signature for delivery. Thieves may also look at clues provided by your trash or recycling, which may indicate the new computer or flat-screen television inside. Do not post travel photos while on vacation; that is a clear signal that you are not home!
6. **Set a safety routine.** Make sure you establish a routine where you regularly lock all doors, shut windows, and turn on your alarm system every time you leave your home. Avoid leaving spare keys outside, under a planter or under a welcome mat, as thieves know most of the potential hiding places.
7. **Manage visibility.** Make sure you can see who is at your front door without opening it. Avoid placing valuables where they will be visible from the street, and do not place your home alarm panel in a place where people can see you arming it from the outside.
8. **Protect your outdoor valuables.** Burglars also target sheds, garages, and other outdoor buildings. Secure your grill, lawn mower, bicycles, boats, and other outdoor gear.
9. **Create a plan for when you are away.** Hold your mail, stop your papers, and ask a friend or neighbor to remove flyers from your property. Arrange for snow removal and lawn mowing so you do not advertise when you are away from home.

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