

Guardian Protection Strategies

by Guardian Protection Services

While all of the tips in this brochure might not pertain to your situation, Guardian Protection Services urges you to seriously consider your home's security. These tips will drastically improve your home's safety, but many of them are best implemented in conjunction with an alarm system.

Alarm systems are inexpensive, and provide extra security when you are at home and when you are away. Guardian Protection Services provides 24-hour monitoring of all alarm systems it installs. This means that we are watching over your home and valuables even when you are not there.



Call Guardian Protection Services
for a free, confidential
home security evaluation.

1-800-PROTECT
(1-800-776-8328)

- ▼ **More than 80% of all attempted household burglaries are completed successfully** ¹
- ▼ **Every 14.4 seconds a household burglary occurs** ²
- ▼ **63% of residential intruders entered during the day** ²
- ▼ **35% of residential intruders entered through the front door** ³
- ▼ **Homes with monitored security systems are 3 times less likely to be burglarized** ⁴
- ▼ **80% of all fire-related deaths occur in home fires** ⁵
- ▼ **A residential fire occurs every 80 seconds** ⁵
- ▼ **Most deadly fires occur during the night, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. and over half of home-fire victims die in their sleep** ⁶

¹ Department of Justice; ² Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2006; ³ National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Industry Statistics, May 2006; ⁴ National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Industry Statistics, May 2006; ⁵ National Fire Protection Association, "Fire Loss in the United States," 2007; ⁶ NFPA Characteristics of Home Fire Victims, 2005

Criminals are becoming more and more sophisticated, and crime prevention is a growing area of concern for most Americans. That's why there are certain at-home security measures you should practice in addition to installing a home security system.

Law enforcement officials agree that the most common reactions people have after being burglarized are surprise and fear. Victims are surprised because they never thought it could happen to them, and they are afraid that it might happen again.

We at Guardian Protection Services would like to offer some suggestions on how to minimize the chances that you will be burglarized. These suggestions should help to prevent significant

losses, and make the recovery process as easy as possible.

Unlike many other crimes, burglary is largely preventable, and this brochure will help you take the first steps in safeguarding your home. Many of these tips were developed by the Justice Department and other law enforcement organizations.

Burglars will typically spend only one minute trying to get into your home. So, if your home does not look like an obvious target and presents significant obstacles to a burglar, it probably will be passed by.

Guardian Protection Strategies is designed to help you increase your sense of home security. Most importantly, it will make you look at your house the way a burglar does.

Your Yard:

This is the first thing a burglar sees, and it says a lot about your home. If your house looks like an easy target, it probably is.

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Your street number should be clearly visible for the police and fire departments.



Eliminate all visible second-floor access to your house. Trim tree limbs that permit access to your windows, and do not leave ladders, picnic tables and chairs loose in the yard.



Keep shrubs and bushes trimmed so windows and doors are not hidden from view.



Porches and entrances should be well lit. Motion sensitive lights in less frequented areas provide a low-cost deterrent.



Reduce high fencing that obstructs the line of sight. While a fence acts as a deterrent, wooden slat fences shield burglars from sight.

Your Doors and Windows:

Most burglars enter your home through your doors and windows, and many times there is nothing there to deter them.



Relocate the garage emergency release away from garage door windows.



Eliminate any “secret” entrances to your home, such as unlocked windows and hidden keys. If you can break in, so can a burglar.



Remove exterior key locks used for electric garage door openers. Burglars can easily short out the system and enter through the garage.



Since doors and windows are so vulnerable and basic locks don't always stop burglars, dead-bolt locks or rim-mounted locks attached with 3" screws provide extra protection.



Make sure that your children can reach the peephole in your front door. If not, keep a chair or stool near the door.



At basement level windows, install either glass block or interior burglar bars—these bars make it very difficult for an intruder to snake his way into your home.



If you must, hide a key outside your house and only use it in emergency situations. Also, don't use obvious locations like doormats, mailboxes and flower pots.



Check the security of your sliding glass doors. Make sure they are secured to their tracks and cannot be easily lifted.

Inside Your Home:

Once intruders are in your home, don't make it easy for them. There are many simple measures that you can take to minimize your losses.



Take pictures or videotape all of your valuables and store them in a safe deposit box. This will make the identification process much easier should a burglar occur.

1-800-PROTECT



Keep all important paper documents and appraisals of your valuables in a fire-proof safe or in a bank safe deposit box.



Don't keep all of your valuables in the same place. If you are burglarized, separating valuables will prevent the loss of entire sets.



If you own firearms, keep them locked up, out of view, unloaded and separate from their ammunition.

When You Are Away From Home:

Time away from home ranges from running an errand to going on a month-long vacation; and the more occupied your house appears, the safer it is. Regardless of the length of your absence, this is a time when planning ahead will really pay off.



Advise the police and your local crime watch program when you will be away for a long period of time.



Inform a close friend or neighbor of your whereabouts so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.



If you are attending a publicized family affair (funeral, wedding, etc.) have someone watch your home (burglars also read the newspaper).



When on vacation, either stop deliveries of mail and newspapers, or ask a trusted friend or neighbor to take in your mail, newspapers and packages at the appropriate times.



Ask your neighbor to park a car in your driveway while you are gone.



Lower the volume of your telephone ringers and answering machine when you are out for long periods of time, so they cannot be heard from outside your house.



Keep your shades and blinds in their normal positions.



Use timers on your lights in logical sequences. For example, your living room and kitchen lights should go off before your bedroom lights, just as they do when you are home.

Fire Emergency Planning:

In the event of a fire, you will have little time to think about getting your family to safety. It is essential to think about this situation before it arises.



Install smoke detectors. Ideally, detectors should contact the fire department or an alarm company directly. Test batteries monthly.



Develop a fire safety plan with all members of your household.



Have escape ladders by windows on the second floor and above.



Fire extinguishers should be visibly located in key areas, and every member of your household should know how to use them.



Keep bedroom doors closed when you are asleep. This will prevent fires from spreading rapidly.