

# DuPage County Sheriff's Office



## Home Security and Safety Checklist

Burglary and other crimes often occur in homes. This survey has been designed to help you identify vulnerable areas of your home. Burglars are criminals of opportunity. If you can reduce opportunity, then you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Good home security is the first step.

Survey your home carefully and systematically using the checklist below. Do not become lax or you may be a burglar's next victim.

Yes No

### Safe Practices

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep a list of valuable property?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you mark your valuable property with your Illinois Drivers License number?                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have a list of serial numbers of your watches, cameras, computers and audio equipment, etc?    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have a description, photos, or video of other property that cannot be engraved?                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep your garage door closed and/or valuables away from open windows?                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you organized so that you do not need to "hide" a key under the doormat or similar place?         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your family know what to do if they discover a burglar breaking into or already in your house?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your family know to leave the house undisturbed and call the police if they discover a burglary? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are in the house?                           |

Yes No

### Perimeter Security - Doors

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do all your exterior doors have a good quality deadbolt lock with no less than a 1" throw?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all latch-strike plates on your exterior doors secured with at least 3" screws?          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do your exterior doors that have glass within 3' of the lock have double-cylinder deadbolts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do all of your exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door viewer (peep hole)?       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are all exterior doors constructed of metal-clad or solid wood?                              |

Yes No Perimeter Security – Sliding Doors

- ☐ ☐ Do all your sliding glass doors have at least one of the following?  
( Track lock, insertion pin lock, hinged door bar or metal/wooden dowel in the track )
- ☐ ☐ Do your auxiliary locks prevent the door from being lifted out of its track?
- ☐ ☐ Are all your locks in good repair?
- ☐ ☐ Do you know of everyone who has a key to your house?
- ☐ ☐ Do all out-swinging doors have the hinges have non-removable pins?

Yes No Windows

- ☐ ☐ Are all of your windows secured with an auxiliary window lock?
- ☐ ☐ Are all windows equipped with properly installed and securely mounted auxiliary locks?
- ☐ ☐ Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut?
- ☐ ☐ Do you use locks that allow you to lock a window that is partially open?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have secure locks on your garage windows?
- ☐ ☐ Are your garage windows covered on the inside?
- ☐ ☐ Are you as careful of second floor windows as you are of windows on the first floor?

Yes No Garage Doors

- ☐ ☐ If your overhead garage door is equipped with an automatic opener, does it use a “rolling code”?
- ☐ ☐ If your overhead garage door is not equipped with an automatic opener, does it have a good quality lock on both sides of the door?
- ☐ ☐ Do both your exterior pedestrian door and the door from the garage into your home have good quality deadbolts and are they always used?
- ☐ ☐ Do you always close your overhead garage door – even when you are home?
- ☐ ☐ Do you lock your car and take the keys out even when it is parked in your locked garage?

Yes No Exterior Lighting

- ☐ ☐ Is your front entrance lit well (at least a 60w bulb) enough to enable you to identify visitors at night?
- ☐ ☐ Are all other entrances illuminated well?
- ☐ ☐ Do floodlights or some other type of area illumination cover all exterior sections of your home or property?
- ☐ ☐ Do motion sensors control your exterior lighting?
- ☐ ☐ Is your house address illuminated or easily visible from the street during all hours?



Yes No Landscaping

- ☐ ☐ Are all your bushes, trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding areas near your doors and windows?
- ☐ ☐ Have tree limbs been trimmed to prevent access to second floor windows or balconies?
- ☐ ☐ Have you planted "prickly" or thorny shrubbery near windows?
- ☐ ☐ Is all outside foliage trimmed to prevent obstruction of exterior lighting?

Yes No Exterior Entries and Possessions

- ☐ ☐ Are all of your gates locked with good quality weatherproof padlocks?
- ☐ ☐ Are all sheds and/or outbuildings secured with a good quality weatherproof padlock?
- ☐ ☐ Are all valuables stored outside (bikes, ladders, mowers, motorcycles, etc) secured to a fixed object?
- ☐ ☐ Have you locked up your ladders and avoided climbable access to your roof (i.e. trellises, fences)

Yes No When you are Out of Town

- ☐ ☐ Do you have several lights in your home set on automatic timers?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have a working home alarm system?
- ☐ ☐ Do you always remember to arm the alarm before you leave?
- ☐ ☐ Do you arm your alarm systems when you will be in your backyard for any length of time?
- ☐ ☐ Do you discontinue mail and newspaper services (or a neighbor collect them) when away from home?
- ☐ ☐ Do you arrange for a friend or neighbor to check your home when you are gone?
- ☐ ☐ Does your telephone answering machine/service avoid announcing "We're not home right now"?
- ☐ ☐ Is your yard maintained in warm months and driveway cleared during winter while your away?
- ☐ ☐ Do you allow neighbors to utilize your driveway while away for a period of time?
- ☐ ☐ Do you notify a neighbor that you will be gone, along with leaving an emergency contact number?
- ☐ ☐ Without creating too much visibility, do you leave some window coverings partially open so that the house does not look deserted?

Yes No Home Security

- ☐ ☐ Do you have a smoke detectors throughout the home?(near bedrooms, family room, kitchen, stairs)
- ☐ ☐ Are there carbon monoxide detectors in the same areas as your smoke detectors?
- ☐ ☐ Is there a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace?
- ☐ ☐ Are there ABC-type fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage and basement?
- ☐ ☐ Do all members of your household know exactly what to do in case of a fire or other emergency?
- ☐ ☐ Do you test your smoke detectors once a month?
- ☐ ☐ Do you replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year?
- ☐ ☐ Are all flammables stored in original, marked containers away from sources of heat or flame?
- ☐ ☐ Are all of your valuable documents and possessions stored in a fire-rated safe?

Yes No

Gun Safety

- ☐ ☐ Are all guns safely stored in a locked box, safe or vault?
- ☐ ☐ Are all guns stored separately from their ammunition?
- ☐ ☐ Are guns that are intended for home protection equipped with a trigger guard lock?
- ☐ ☐ Have all members of your household been trained to treat every gun as if it were loaded?

Yes No

Swimming Pool Safety

- ☐ ☐ Are all exterior pool area doors equipped with a specific door alarm?
- ☐ ☐ If your pool area has a secondary fence, are the gates secured with a gate lock or padlock?
- ☐ ☐ Is your pool area or property line surrounded by at least a 6' high fence?
- ☐ ☐ Is every member of your household trained in CPR?

*If any item is marked "No" on this checklist, those areas are where you should take steps to improve your home's security. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort, help us make your neighborhood a safer place to live. ~ Sheriff John E. Zaruba*

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