



Burglary Prevention Tips

Outside

- Plan landscaping and trim shrubs so windows and doors are in full view from the street. Unobstructed doors and windows are a deterrent because the burglar is forced to work in the open where detection is likely.
- Place gravel or stones in beds and paths below windows. Small size gravel or stone makes a loud crunching sound to alert to someone's presence.
- Protect vulnerable areas with thorns. Roses look good and deter people from approaching windows.
- Maintain adequate lighting especially for vulnerable entry points including basement egress windows.
- Illuminate the rear lot area. Some power companies will install a dusk to dawn alley light for a reasonable monthly charge.
- Always keep garage doors locked. This prevents a burglar from entering the home through the door from the attached garage.
- House numbers should be prominently displayed and illuminated. This helps police and other emergency responders find your home. Urge your neighbors to display their house numbers. This will be helpful when reporting a burglary, fire or emergency at their home.

Home exterior

- Door and window frames should be made of heavy material and should be well braced.
- All exterior doors should be metal, metal clad or solid hardwood. Doors of this type help resist forced entry because they are not easily battered or bored.
- Install a 180 degree wide-angle viewer in exterior doors to see who is at the door before opening the door. Viewers are available at home improvement and hardware stores.

Windows

- Double hung windows may be easily jimmied or pried open. They can be secured by locks.
- Window locks offering effective protection are available. These inexpensive, easy-to-install locks should replace thumb turn locks that offer little security.
- Show children how to use the window locks and do not use keyed locks on windows in sleeping areas.
- Sliding glass windows may be secured the same way as sliding glass doors.

Sliding glass doors

- Place a length of wood in the lower track. Make sure it fits snug and cannot be popped out of the track by an intruder.
- Use patio door auxiliary locks.
- A sliding glass patio door may be pried from its track. To prevent this install three, 1 1/4 inch large head sheet metal screws in the upper track of the movable door. Make sure they protrude far enough so the sliding frame just clears.



Sliding patio door upper track



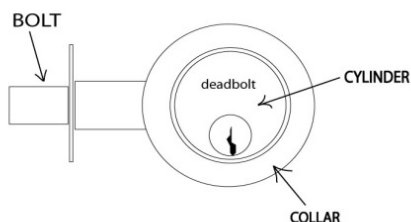
Patio door auxiliary lock

Locks

- The **key-in-knob** or **spring lock** is used most often in dwellings. The spring activated strike has a beveled edge and can be easily defeated when a credit card or screwdriver is wedged between it and the strike plate. This lock offers little security.
- The **dead latch** is similar to the spring latch but has a bar on the strike that cannot be easily defeated. It offers little security because the bar is very short and weak. Both lock types should be supplemented by deadbolt locks or rim type locks.
- The **deadbolt lock** has a bolt that must be activated by a key or thumb turn. It offers good security because it is not spring activated. Deadbolt locks are recommended on exterior doors.
- The **single cylinder deadbolt** is activated with a key on the exterior side of the door and a thumb turn piece on the other side. Install this lock where there is no breakable glass within 40 inches of the thumb turn piece.

Deadbolt lock

- The bolt must extend a minimum of one inch and be made of case hardened steel or contain a hardened insert.
- The cylinder collar must be tapered, round and free spinning to make it difficult to grip with a pliers or wrench. It must be solid metal and not hollow casting or stamped metal.

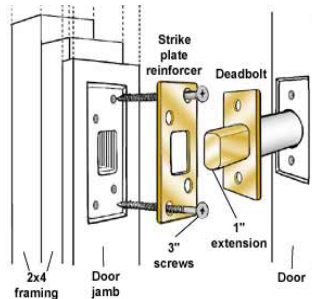


Strike plate

- The weakest part of the door is the strike plate that holds the latch or lock bolt in place.
- A heavy duty strike plate installed in place of a regular strike plate helps strengthen door frames. The heavy duty plate uses four to six 3 inch wood screws, not two 3/4 inch screws typically used in regular plates.
- These longer screws go through the frame into the jamb making it harder for someone to split the frame when kicking the door.



Regular strike plate



Heavy duty strike plate

While away

During vacations or other trips, follow these tips to make your home appear occupied.

- Either use automatic timers or recruit a trusted neighbor to turn lights on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Vary the lights to be turned on and occasionally have a radio turned on. Never leave lights or the radio on constantly.
- Leave your drapes in the normal position. Have a neighbor reposition them every day or so.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked so no one can see your car is gone or valuable equipment in your garage.
- Tell a neighbor where you can be reached in an emergency.
- Don't let your travel plans be widely known or displayed on social media pages.

Ask a trusted neighbor to:

- Park in your driveway or in front of your home.
- Occasionally place garbage in your garbage can.
- Mow the lawn or shovel sidewalks.
- Check your home for anything unusual and pick up your mail, newspapers and any deliveries.

Home security surveys

The home security survey is designed to show citizens where their homes are vulnerable to burglary. Locks are checked, windows inspected and any security weaknesses are identified. This is a free service. Contact the St. Cloud Police Department to set up an appointment.

For more information contact:

John Justin, Certified Crime Prevention Specialist

St. Cloud Police Department

(320) 345-4182 or Email john.justin@ci.stcloud.mn.us