



# HOME SECURITY

## → WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SECURING YOUR HOME

### Reduce your fear of crime!

Even though nothing can make your home completely “burglar proof,” the following tips are designed to increase the security of your home. Security devices are only effective if used **correctly** and **consistently**.

#### EXTERIOR

- Street numbers should be highly visible from the street.
- Shrubs should be trimmed below window levels, and tree limbs should be removed to a height of six (6) feet.
- Lock all gates, sheds, and crawl spaces.
- For attached garages, make sure the door leading from the garage into the house is also locked.
- Ladders or doors should be securely locked.
- Light all sides of your home, or at least main entrances.
- Motion detectors, duck-to-dawn sensors, and/or timers are ideal for lighting.
- recommended.
- Install wide angled peepholes.
- Keep windows locked.
- Close curtain at night to keep valuables out of sight.
- While away, leave a radio turned to a talk radio station so that voices can be heard inside.
- Never have your answering machine message saying that you are not at home.
- Turn the volume down on your answering machine so someone outside won't hear it answer.



## VALUABLES

- Mark or engrave all valuables.
- Take pictures or video of valuables.
- Keep a log of serial numbers.
- Keep a log, video and pictures at another location, such as a safe deposit box or a relative's home.

## LOCKS

- Strong, reliable locks are essential.
- Use deadbolts with a minimum of a one inch (1") throw.
- Reinforce strike plates with extra-long mounting screws.
- Use double-cylinder deadbolts for doors with glass within 40 inches of the lock so an intruder cannot break the glass and unlock the door.

## WINDOWS/SLIDING GLASS DOORS

- Keyed locking devices are available for both.
- Pin double-hung windows by drilling a hole through the top frame of the lower window partially into the frame of the upper window. Then, insert a nail or eyebolt.
- Sliding glass doors can be pinned as well.
- Adjust sliding glass door track clearances so they can't be pushed out of their tracks.
- Put a piece of wood or a metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent it from opening.



## IMPORTANT NOTE

When securing doors and windows, allow for fire escape routes. Be sure all family members know how to unlock doors and windows. Check and follow local fire codes when installing security locks on doors and windows.

## VACATIONS

- Have someone pick up your mail and paper or have them stopped.
- Use timers on your lights.
- Have a trusted neighbor watch over your property.

## ALARMS

Alarms provide additional security beyond the basic measures recommended in this brochure. You should consider an alarm system that best suits your needs and lifestyle. If you have an alarm, be sure it is properly maintained.

## HOME SECURITY AUDITS

Conduct a security audit of your home by following these [security tips](#) from Henrico Police.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Join your community's Neighborhood Watch or start one in your area. For more information, call (804) 501-4838.

**Report all crime to the police, no matter how minor or embarrassing. Help us help you!**

*(Information updated March 2026)*