



OUTSIDE HOME

Are there clear views of all windows and doors?

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal.



Thieves prefer to work where they can't be seen. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight lines to your windows and doors, especially basement windows.

Tall trees should have lower branches trimmed to 6 feet up from the ground.

Are there visible interior or exterior lights that give the impression you are home, even if you're not?

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Consider using motion lights. Lights are available that run on solar power and are inexpensive to operate. Some have an "automatic on - dusk to dawn" feature.



DOORS

Is there an easy way of seeing who is at your door without having to open it?

Every door should have a way of clearly seeing who is there without opening it. Consider installing a wide-angle lens peephole. This will allow you to keep your door locked while assessing the visitor prior to opening it. Leave your door locked when you are at home, including your screen door. If you have a screen door, you should have it locked and you can open the main door to converse with any person while still maintaining a level of security. A locked screen door also provides additional security to any door.



Do all of your exterior doors have a deadbolt that extends into the door frame that is at least one inch long?

Are the screws located on the door jamb opposite the lock at least 2.5 inches long? Are hinge pins on the inside?

Criminals with tools easily defeat conventional door knob locks. Deadbolts should be installed on all exterior doors. To secure a door properly, the screws should be at least 2.5 inches long, and the strike plate should have a minimum of four offset holes.



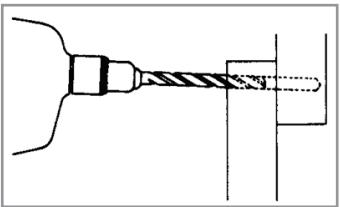
If you have a sliding door, do you have a security bar in the bottom track to prevent the door from opening?

The standard locking pin on sliding doors is usually cast metal, which breaks easily. A snug fitting security bar, or even hockey stick, should be added to the door to prevent it from being pried open.

WINDOWS

Do the windows of your home have a pin lock or secondary aftermarket locking device?

Criminals target sliding windows because they are easy to jimmy open. You can protect windows with store bought or homemade devices. For example, bars are an option. **Locking devices should never prevent emergency escape in the event of fire.**



GARAGE DOORS



Do you always close and lock your garage door?

Garages are a favourite target because they often have valuables, such as vehicles, power tools, sporting goods, and bicycles in them. Thefts from garages are an easily preventable crime. Keep garage doors closed and locked, even when you are home. Be sure the overhead door closes completely after you drive in or out of your garage.



VALUABLES

Do you store valuables in a safety deposit box?

The best place to put valuables is in an offsite safety deposit box. A good alternative is to hide valuables in a lock-box in a general storage area concealed in your home. Better lock-boxes can be bolted to the wall or floor. It's a good idea to make a list of your valuables, take photos of them, and list their serial numbers and descriptions. Engrave your electronics, bikes, and tools so they can be easily identified.



If you have the information recorded and stored away from your home, there is a better chance of recovery and potentially a conviction. Jewelry is another area of interest for a thief. An item that you care for a great deal, like a family heirloom, may only fetch a few dollars at a hock-shop, but have huge sentimental value to you. Hiding your valuables in your freezer is not a good choice. Culprits often look in jewelry boxes, freezers and closets. Be creative and be clever.

Do NOT advertise new purchases! Take boxes for items like computers, TV's, and stereo's and turn them inside out before putting them in the recycle box. If necessary, cut boxes into smaller pieces and put them into a box or bag. Suspects have been known to break into dwellings where they have seen a manufacturer's box at the curb and have also stolen the box to put their newly stolen item into to make it easier to resell.

Are purses/wallets or other high value portable items hidden when you leave your vehicle?

These items should never be left in a vehicle. If something of value must be left in a vehicle it should be placed out of sight BEFORE the vehicle is parked.





NEIGHBOURS

Do you know your neighbours across the street and on all three sides of you?

Neighbours can look out for one another and your property. Building community connections enhances the security and quality of your home. Neighbours are also excellent people to watch over your home when you are away.

WHEN AWAY

Do you leave lights on timers, both inside and outside the home?

Timers make a home look lived in. This will avoid leaving your home in darkness at night and leaving the outside lights on during the day.

Do you have a trusted neighbour or friend to pick up your mail, newspapers, and flyers?

The accumulation of mail is a sure sign that no one is home.

Have you made arrangements to have your lawn cut and snow shoveled?

The appearance of your home should not vary whether you are home or away.

Do you leave a message on your answering machine that leaves the impression you are not home?

Never leave a message to say or imply you are not home or are away for a period of time. Keep it the same as when you are home.

ALARMS AND STROBE LIGHTS

Alarms will not always prevent a break-in although they normally greatly reduce the degree of harm by limiting the time a suspect spends on the property.

You should know what the criminals know:

- Police do NOT monitor burglar alarms,
- Burglar alarms are not the #1 priority to police,
- Culprits often spend less than three minutes in a dwelling and are long gone before the police arrive.
- Many alarms engage your phone line, making it impossible for you to call for help.



If your alarm uses the phone system, ensure that you have a secondary phone available, for example, a cell phone.

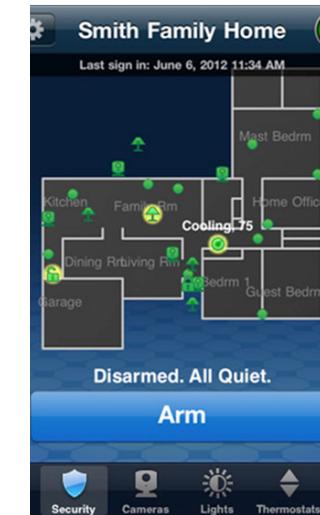
An audible siren and a strobe light can alert your neighbours and passers-by to a problem. Suspects know this and tend to flee at the first sound of an audible alarm. Alarms do a good job of reducing your losses.

PANIC ALARMS

In a medical setting a panic alarm may be a life saver. In a security setting, a call to 911 is more effective. When 911 is called police are aware of the emergency immediately. If the call comes from a land line, they also know the address of the problem, even before any words are spoken. 911 operators can hear what is going on if the phone is off the hook, even if the conversation is not intended for them. Panic alarms go to third party, not the police. Usually the police are given very little information related to a panic alarm. A 911 operator can get details so that the appropriate response is arranged. Panic buttons may tie up your phone line. If you have one, again consider a secondary phone, such as a cell phone.

MODERN SECURITY DEVICES

Many suppliers now provide equipment that allows you to monitor your home on your mobile phone or from a remote computer. You can check on children, pets or security at anytime from anywhere.



RESULTS

Your results reflect the level of security your home has in relation to the most common security weaknesses. If you have answered 'no' to any of these questions, consider what changes you can make to improve your home security.

ONE FINAL TIP IS TO ENSURE EMERGENCY PERSONNEL CAN EASILY SEE YOUR HOUSE NUMBER FROM THE STREET, EVEN AT NIGHT.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Greater Sudbury Police Service – Crime Prevention 705.675.9171

FOR MORE TIPS FROM GSPS ON CRIME PREVENTION GO TO THE WEBSITE

www.gspscp.ca

GREATER SUDBURY POLICE SERVICE



GUIDELINES FOR A

SELF-AUDIT

Residential Break-ins & Thefts

CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is a successful program which helps reduce crime by limiting opportunity.

Is your home an easy target for criminals?