

Keep Your Home Safe From Burglars **By Basil Housewright**

You should at least make it difficult for a burglar to break into your home. Amazingly, 30% of home burglaries involve entry through an unlocked window or door. In the United States, nearly four burglaries happen every minute.

Over 70% of burglaries happen in residential communities. The average burglary loss was over \$2,000.

Over 80% of police officials believe that a home security system deters burglars from attempting to rob someone. They move on to the house without the security system.

Here are some home security tips:

1. Make sure locks on all sliding glass doors are sturdy. Cut an appropriate length of a strong solid piece of wood or old broom handle and place in the closed door's track to prevent it being opened for additional reinforcement.
2. Make certain that the sliding glass door can't easily be removed from its rollers or glide path.
3. Install secondary window locks on all first floor windows and any second floor ones that have access to a porch, patio, or garage roof. You can position the locks to allow for limited opening for fresh air while not making enough space for a person to fit through the window.
4. If your front door is a hollow-core type door replace it with a metal or solid-core front door.
5. Replace front doors that have decorative glass windows or panels, or at least install break resistant plastic panes in those types of doors. Installing a decorative grille over the glass is another good security feature for a front door.
6. Install a security system and utilize a 24/7 monitoring service and make sure you set it any time you are not home even for short periods of absence. Post a sign out in front of your home informing you have a security system. A sign by itself even if you do not have a system is a good deterrent but not as effective.
7. Don't advertise you are leaving for a trip/vacation on places like social media sites. Post and tell your friends after you get home so you do not let others know your home is going to be empty for a few days.
8. Report any strange activities you notice in your neighborhood to police authorities.
9. Do not allow door-to-door salespeople in your home. They may be casing your home out.
10. Use timers to turn small lamps on in the home when you are traveling so it appears the home is occupied.

Basil is manager of Texans Insurance & Financial Group, Inc a local Independent Insurance Agency operating in Sugar Land since 1991. He can be reached at (281) 277-7800, Fax (281) 277-7801, E-Mail – basil@texansinsure.com. Visit www.texansinsure.com.