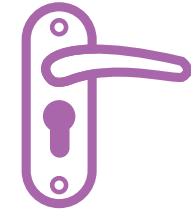




Safeguarding Your House

What You Can Do

Check the condition of your house doors and door frames. Should they be repaired or replaced? All exterior doors should be either metal or solid core wood (1-3/4 inch thick). Always use a licensed locksmith. Security devices for windows vary, depending on the type of window and its location. All accessible windows in a private house need securing. Second-story windows can be accessed by ladder, trash cans, nearby trees, garage rooftops, or shrubbery, and basement windows are one of the most popular points of entry for a burglar.



Locks

Use a deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt.

Install a pick-resistant cylinder.

Protect cylinder with a guard plate.

Do not use a double-cylinder lock; that is, a lock that has a key on both sides. It can be deadly if a fire breaks out.



Lighting

Illuminate the perimeter of your house and door areas with enough light to see.



Timers

Use timers throughout the house that have variable time changes.



Mailbox

Avoid displaying the first names of family members on the mailbox.



Shrubbery

Cut or trim shrubbery so that it does not obstruct viewing from inside or outside.



Air Conditioners

Secure air conditioners to the window opening to prevent them being pulled out or pushed in.



Window Gate

On the first floor, or on any emergency exit window (fire escape), use a window gate – commonly known as the “ferry” or “safety gate.”



Garage

Secure an attached garage as you would your dwelling, it is an access point into your house.



Alarms

There are a variety of alarm systems available. Get estimates for your alarm needs from at least three alarm companies.