

Suggestion to Deter Burglars - 5/23/2017 Andy Fraser

1. Make it difficult for someone to conceal themselves while breaking in. Avoid tall/thick shrubs around your windows and doors. Avoid privacy fences.
2. Having good exterior lighting on a timer helps, but the best thing is a motion sensor floodlight. When a motion light kicks on, it says "Hey, something's going on over here."
3. Avoid having stuff in plain sight that says "We have lots of \$\$\$." If you have an expensive car, keep it in a garage. If you have nice stuff in your house, keep your blinds closed. If you just bought a flatscreen, trash and conceal the box.
4. Burglars case a neighborhood before they rob it. They know when you leave for work. They know when your neighbors leave for work. If you have neighbors that are home during the day, it will make your house a riskier break-in.
5. If you have a security system, don't put one of those "Protected by ADT" stickers on your door. Knowing which brand of security system can provide enough info on how to disable it. Get a generic sticker.
6. Get a dog. The bark is more important than the bite. A little yappy dog can be more of a deterrent than a German Sheppard.
7. Use or get Storm/Security Doors with locks.
8. Put bars on small basement windows that are not easily seen by neighbors/street
9. Keep all doors and windows closed and locked. An open exterior window or door is an invitation for burglars to easily enter your home, so keep them shut and securely locked whether you're home or not. Don't underestimate strong window locks, and update them if needed. Thieves know how to spot weak locks that would be easily forced open. Make sure exterior doors have deadbolt locks. Sliding doors should have vertical bolts and a metal or wooden rod in the track to prevent being forced open or doors being lifted off the track. Never leave your home without locking the front door, no matter how brief your trip. Even if it's pouring rain, don't forget to take the extra moment to lock up. Burglars don't take days off due to weather!

And don't forget the door attached to the garage. It's one of the easiest targets and a likely route of entry. Don't depend on your automatic garage door for full security.

Remember, the goal isn't to make your house completely break-in proof. It is simply to make your house a less attractive target than the other houses in your neighborhood. Look at the surrounding houses and adjust accordingly. Don't be the lowest-hanging fruit!

Some of this material came from LifeHacker.com

<http://lifehacker.com/5887264/how-to-cleverly-secure-your-home-against-intruders>