

HOME SECURITY TIPS

Submitted by The RCPOA Neighborhood Security Committee

The Glendale Police Department would like to provide home security tips as we enter into the summer months. The warmer weather has a natural tendency of drawing residents away from their homes and opportunist burglars to your empty home. We encourage residents to be vigilant and report all suspicious activity to the Glendale Police Department immediately by calling 9-1-1.

The following tips are easy to implement, and will help in securing your home:

- Always lock your home and be sure you have quality door locks and deadbolts. Lock all windows on the first floor, as well as higher levels, even if the window or door is an enclosed or screened-in porch. It only takes an opportunist burglar seconds to break in through an open door or window and make off with items such as keys, laptops, wallets, purses and mobile phones.
- If you have an air conditioner in a window, make sure it is secured and that it is not possible to further open the window or remove the air conditioning unit in order to gain entry.
- When leaving for vacation, you should maintain a "lived in" appearance at their home. Always use timers to switch lights and radios on and off at different times whenever you're not at home.
- It is important to let trusted neighbors know you will be away so they can keep an eye on your home. Also, make arrangements for your mail and newspapers to be picked up daily.
- Place a security bar, sometimes referred to as a "Charlie Bar," between the patio sliding door and door jam. This can be as simple as a 1 x 2 dropped into the sliding door track. Don't assume that the latch on the door is secure enough to ward off a thief.
- Lights that are triggered by motion are inexpensive and are highly recommended. You can purchase a motion sensor which screws into a standard light bulb socket, to which you then screw your light bulb back into.
- If you have recently moved into a new home, make sure you change all the locks.

- Today, there are many affordable home security systems that rely on motion sensors and allow you to monitor your home via your smart phone. If you have a security system, make sure that you conceal all wiring. A professional burglar will look for places where he or she can disconnect or cut the security system wiring.
- Before turning your house key over to a professional house cleaner or other worker for several hours, make sure the person is honest and reputable. Check all references thoroughly.
- Trim trees and shrubbery near windows and doors. Consider your landscaping plan in light of your protection needs.
- Ask for credentials from any sales-person who requests entry to your home. Ask that their ID be pushed under the door. Many professional burglars use this cover to check out homes. If you're doubtful, check with the person's office before letting him or her in to your home.
- If someone asks to use your phone, make the emergency call yourself and relay the information.
- Keep your garage door shut and locked at all times. Tools and equipment are a prize haul for burglars because they are easily resold.
- Dogs are great deterrents and will usually alert you when someone is on your property. Dogs are able to hear and distinguish sounds far beyond a human's capabilities. Finally, the Glendale Police Department offers vacation checks by trained volunteers Monday through Friday. The checks entail a visual check of the home, ensuring that all vehicles, gates and areas surrounding your home are intact. There is no cost associated with requesting a vacation check and the requester need only provide basic information relating to the home and duration of your absence.