

TIPS FROM A BURGLAR

"The number one advice I can give is *know your neighbors*. That way, they can look out for you when you are not around. Make sure your neighbors know enough about your life so that when a strange person comes in the middle of the day or a strange car is parked in your driveway, they'll know to call the police."

The following are mostly common sense tips that people know, or should know, but simply ignore:

1. Alarms

- If you have an alarm, USE IT! It is amazing how many people do not activate their alarms.
- Spend the extra money to have window sensors. Many people only have the sensor in the door and that is not a deterrent because the burglar can break the window and the alarm will not go off.

2. Avoid the appearance you have been gone for a few days.

- Don't leave the *garbage* can by the curbside - if you are going to be out of town, have your neighbors move it.
- Don't leave the *newspapers* for more than one day in front of the house - if you are on vacation: stop it!
- Move a *parked car* on a driveway or carport routinely. A dirty car that appears to have been sitting on the same spot for a long time is a good indicator the people are away

3. **Lock all your doors and windows.** Have strong locks. French doors are the easiest to break.

4. Windows

- Always close them and lock them, even on the second floor.
- Close the blinds or curtains - make sure people cannot see inside the house.
- If you don't want to close your blinds, make sure valuable items are out of view. Don't have the big plasma TV visible from the outside.

5. **Install a camera in front of the house.** Even if a burglar breaks in through the back, they usually walk out the front.

6. **Store valuables in unusual places.** Keep valuables, such as jewelry, in places other than the master bedroom. The bathroom or laundry room are good places to hide these items. Burglars always start in the master bedroom and walk their way back into the living room, then front door or driveway. *If there is a room they will ransack, it will be the master bedroom since that is where most women keep their jewelry.*

7. Avoid blocking your house from the public or neighbors if possible

- If you have trees or big bushes, make sure there are gaps in between them.
- Don't build a "wall" of greens.

8. If you have a safe, make sure it is not easily moveable. A heavy safe or one that is built into the wall is best. Most burglars won't take the time to try and break into it because it is wasted time with no guarantees there are goods inside.

9. Avoid doggie doors. They are the easiest way for a burglar to get inside.

10. Don't leave any ladders in your backyard.

Side note: if you choose to live in a house that is hidden from the main streets, you are more likely to get burglarized. Although many people love their privacy, a house that is not visible is the best target for a burglar!